Shunned by bond market, USVI faces cash crisis. PAGE 8
NPS awards $27K grant to preserve WWII sites on Saipan. PAGE 10

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

US Senate passes HR 339 with only 350 CW-1 slots

» Bill adds to US worker training fund, bars CW permits for new construction workers

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The U.S. Senate passed on the evening of Aug. 1, 2017, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill that proposed to create more slots for foreign workers, along with other provisions relating to what is known as the CW-1 program.

H.R. 339, which had sought to bump up the CW-1 slots this fiscal year from 12,998 to 15,000, was passed unanimously with an amendment to open up only 350 CW-1 slots as opposed to the initial proposal of 2,002.

Sablan's bill also increases the supplemental education fee from $150 to $200 and to allow the extension of permits for construction workers to those that were issued

See HR 339 on Page 4

Roll of new voters at 310

» Most are fresh graduates, new citizens
» Registered voters for 2018 election now at 16,329

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

So far, a total of 310 mostly fresh high school graduates and those who were just sworn in as new U.S. citizens last July 4, have joined the roster of new voters

Commonwealth Election Com-

See ROLL on Page 4

Volunteers help prevent clinic's shutdown

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Family Care Clinic almost closed down before volunteers from the Community Outreach Recovery Efforts were tapped to temporarily fill a shortage of specialized nurses.

"There were talks of closing the clinic down due to the shortage of nurses in the hospital. But if that happens, can you imagine where are all the people going will go? Patients will be displaced if we close down the FCC," said FCC head nurse Abbys Mitchell.

"People who wanted a medication refill will most probably end up in

See VOLUNTEERS on Page 4

BEA CABRERA
Family Care Clinic head nurse head Abbys Mitchell, third from right, poses with CORE volunteers.

INSIDE

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Donald Trump signs what he called "seriously flawed" sanctions against Russia.
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ASIA
North Korea's flurry of missile launches is a fact of life for Japan.
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LIFE & STYLE
Prince Philip, 96, made his 22,219th—and final—solo public engagement.
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Local

Former Labor chief says she can't afford a lawyer

Former Labor Secretary Edith Eleanor DeLeon Guerrero is claiming penury, saying she can't afford a lawyer to represent her in a traffic case charging her with misuse of a government vehicle.

At the scheduled hearing yesterday, DeLeon Guerrero informed Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho that she is jobless and can't afford a lawyer. She appeared without a counsel and said she is still looking for a job.

The former Labor secretary also stated she has no source of income.

Camacho found DeLeon Guerrero eligible for a court-appointed counsel and tapped the Office of the Public Defender as her lawyer.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit appeared as counsel for DeLeon Guerrero. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. appeared as counsel for the government.

Camacho continued the motion hearing on Oct. 5, 2017, at 1:30pm.

Yesterday was supposed to be a hearing on the Office of the Attorney General's motion to clarify Camacho's previous interpretation of a "vehicle owned" or "leased."

The bench trial of Deleon Guerrero was supposed to start last June 7, but Camacho vacated it because of the OAG's motion for clarification.

Last Oct. 1, 2016, DeLeon Guerrero, at the time the Labor secretary, was cited for violation of restriction upon use of government vehicles such as driving a government vehicle that does not bear a government license plate, driving an unmarked government vehicle, and operating a government vehicle with tints on its windows.

DeLeon Guerrero pleaded not guilty.

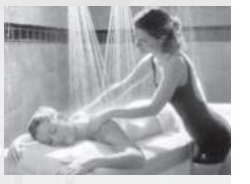
In an earlier interview, Deleon Guerrero said she pleaded not guilty to the charges as it was a rent-a-car vehicle and obviously not government property.

Each of three charges is punishable by a fine of up to $500 and/or three days of imprisonment, according to the law.

According to court documents, police officer Jesus Santos issued the traffic citation against Deleon Guerrero on Oct. 16, 2016, at 3:39pm in the parking lot of the Happiness Chinese Restaurant in western Garapan.

Deleon Guerrero was the driver of a red five-door Toyota car with license plate ACU-788. The car is registered to Marfega Trading Co. Inc. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

HANA HEALTH MASSAGE



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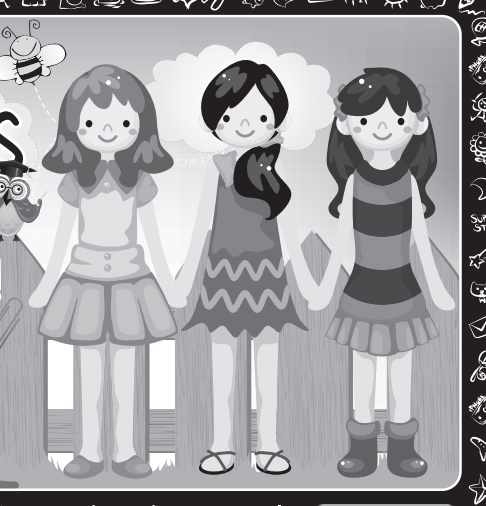

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‘We make sure recruits meet the requirements’

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The desire to serve the country is not enough. New U.S. Army recruits must also shed pounds.

Sgt. 1st class Yovany Rivero, who is tasked with getting military recruits from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, acknowledged that recruitment in the CNMI has been “challenging,” in terms of helping the recruits meet the qualifications, especially the weight requirement.

“A lot of the challenge…is the weight issue on the island so we have to make sure we work on lowering the weight for some folks. Most of the age group that come in are from 17 to 21 [years old] and…we understand it is the culture,” he said.

Rivero, the U.S. Army’s active duty recruiter in the CNMI, arrived on island just three weeks ago and will be on duty here for two years. “We are really new so we are still getting used to the people.”

He said his first priority is U.S. Army recruitment and the second is community involvement.

“The recruitment process is the same in the U.S. We have to test and make sure recruits are qualified, their school, and background. We give them a test, send recruits to Guam for a physical, and enlist them.”

Rivero said recruitment is open to men and women ages 17 to 34, must be a U.S. citizen or green card holder, high school graduate, or a graduate of equivalent degree. They also must be physically fit.

Recruits with certain medical conditions may qualify but you have to inform recruiters beforehand what condition that is, he said.

A quota for army recruitment is set each year. For Saipan it is 45-50 qualified recruits.

“We try our best to meet our quota for recruitment each year because the U.S. Army is constantly retiring folks. [Or] guys move up and open up ranks in the bottom so we are continuously putting folks in the army,” Rivero said

On Saipan alone, the military has three reserve units that are part-time, mostly students or professionals that want to serve but can’t be active full-time.

“So we have three units on Saipan who are in dire need of reserves,” Rivero added.

Rivero, who has been an active duty recruiter for five years, supervises the recruits until they become soldiers.

He speaks highly of the Army and gives an assuring statement in the face of jitters in the region.

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Please help us honor them and their work by nominating them for the Bridge of Light Award, which will be given out at this year’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony.
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For more information about the Bridge of Light Award and/or to submit nominations, visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MND6K5H. Nomination forms may also be picked up at the NMCADSV office at Springs Plaza on Middle Road (north of XO Market and near Bank of Hawaii) during regular hours of operation (M-F, 9am-5pm).
The deadline to submit nominations is 5:00pm on Friday, August 18, 2017.
For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email NMCADSV Program Manager Angelyn N. Palacios at angelyn@endviolencenmi.org.
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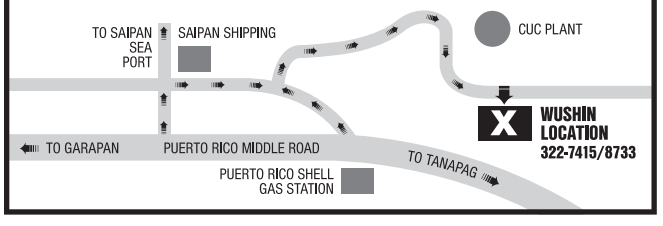

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Senate reluctantly OKs land compensation bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the strong reluctance of Tinian and Rota senators, the bill that would pay off the CNMI government's largest and oldest land compensation obligations on Saipan passed the Senate yesterday.

House Bill 20-103, which appropriates $20.7 million to address the multiple land compensation lawsuits against the CNMI government, passed the Senate on handy vote of 7-1.

That came after several senators expressed disappointment upon learning that land compensation disputes on Tinian and Rota were not addressed in the bill. Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) was absent from yesterday's session.

» Tinian, Rota senators not happy with appropriation

Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota), who gave the lone dissenting vote, attempted to insert a floor amendment to re-allocate $7 million each to both Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., but this was not entertained, resulting in him not supporting the bill.

Deliberations at the House of Representatives did not include land compensations for Rota residents—a fact that bothered Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota).

"Rota residents' land compensations are long overdue as well," he said, adding that the same goes for Tinian residents.

Mesngon yielded the floor by asking for support for land compensation payments for the residents of Rota as well.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) expressed the same sentiments as Mesngon. She said that although she supports the intent of HB 20-103, land compensation disputes also affect the residents of Rota.

"Some have already passed away without receiving anything, " said Santos.

Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian) voted yes for the bill's passage but, before casting his vote, said that he "would not support future business gross revenue tax appropriations if Tinian is not included."

Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) said, "Tinian also deserves payments."

Mangloña expressed belief that poor resource management is the main problem.

"Priority [of land compensation] payments should not be based on who goes to court first," said Mangloña. "Let's do this bill right. Once we pay this [amount], there won't be money left for other [jurisdictions]."

According to an earlier interview with House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), if the bill passes, it would relieve the Commonwealth government of millions of accruing land interest annually. With the accruing interest, the land compensation dispute would continually rise to absurd amounts if not taken cared of immediately.

Superior Court Judge pro tempore Alberto C. Lamorena III earlier ordered the Commonwealth government to pay the Maria Mangabao estate $16.3 million by Aug. 18, 2017—a deadline that prompted most senators to pass the bill despite opposition.

HB 20-103 now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for signing.

HR 339

From Page 1

before Oct. 1, 2015.

The substantial decrease in number of CW-1 slot openings was the result of a joint amendment offered by U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA).

The amendment includes reserving 60 CW-1 slots for healthcare workers, and 10 permits for power plant operators. The recent surge of construction workers, using CW permits, forced hospital nurses to leave the Marianas and many local businesses to lose their long-time foreign workers.

Sablan

Torres

HR 339 goes back to the U.S. House of Representatives for action. If the House makes no further amendments, it will head straight to President Donald J. Trump for his signature.

According to a statement from Sablan's office, the provision of the bill to open up additional CW-1 slots was "a hard sell."

"There are 2,400 unemployed U.S. workers in the Marianas, according to a Commonwealth government survey, and we were asking for more foreign workers. That was a hard sell," the office stated, adding that Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations plaguing the CNMI "made a number of senators skeptical of adding more workers."

"In fact, there is a sentiment on both sides of the aisle that the foreign worker program should not be extended," added the statement, referring to the "… death and injury of workers, employers who were cheating workers on their paychecks, and outright illegal hiring of 'tourists' for construction jobs."

In addition to that skepticism, the statement attributed the bill's slow progress in Congress to the debate about repealing the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare.

"No legislation was going through the Senate until healthcare was resolved," the statement explained. "[Healthcare] was resolved on Friday and two days later we got HR 339 passed."

The bright side

Despite the amendments that lowered the number of slots available to the CNMI, Sablan's office said the reserved slots for healthcare professionals was something the "Commonwealth government [had] advocated for."

The statement said the additional in fees for CW-1 processing adds more resources toward local workers.

"This is an important development in the Marianas transitional immigration system, as it is adding more money to the $9.9 million already invested in training our local workers," reads part of the statement, citing that the construction worker problem that took up a large number of CW-1 slots could have gone to more critical professions.

According to the statement from Sablan's office, the CNMI government has received an accumulated total of $9.9 million over the years from the CW-1 program.

"And I wanted to make sure that the problem of construction workers using up CW permits, crowding out long-time workers and hurting our local businesses, did not occur again," Sablan added.

Separately, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanked Murkowski and Cantwell for "their work in holding a hearing for the bill and for meeting with me in Washington, D.C. to discuss their concerns and the needs of our community."

A statement from Torres said the passage of the bill is "positive to the community" and that further attention must be focused on "long-term solutions to the workforce needs of our growing economy."

"This includes stepping up our efforts in recruiting and training our local workforce, making sure our hospital will continue to have the nurses it needs, and our businesses will continue to have the workers they need."

The statement cited a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office in late May 2017, which basically said that removing the CW-1 permits would "have a drastically negative effect on our economy and our livelihood as a community."

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), said that legislation to address the CW-1 issues in the long-term is already being worked on in collaboration with "different public and private sector [entities]."

With the passage of H.R. 339 at the U.S. Senate, Palacios said, "We'll take what we've got today."

"We know the clock is ticking toward the end of [fiscal year 2017]. Hopefully, [H.R. 339] would resolve some of the issues facing the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and its nursing shortage," said Palacios.

"We are hoping it [would be acted on by the U.S. Congress] fairly soon," he added.

CLARIFICATION

In the story that came out on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017 issue of *Saipan Tribune*, it referred to the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan in Garapan as Phase I. It should have been referred to as the initial gaming facility of Imperial Pacific International. Phase I will result in the establishment of an integrated resort.

VOLUNTEERS

From Page 1

the [emergency room], which is inappropriate. If they are going to be without medicine, they end up in the ER or become in-patients,

That is where the CORE nurses came in, filling in a need that could've led to the unit closing down if not for them.

Mitchell, who is also the president of Community Outreach Recovery Efforts, offered the idea of getting volunteers to help in FCC operations.

CORE was established two years ago when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan and provided comprehensive relief during recovery and stayed intact doing volunteer work.

"Before I offered to Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen the idea of CORE volunteers, I conferred with the CORE members first. This is what's going on in the clinic right now—we have a shortage of people and we need volunteers. CORE, of course, said they were amicable and willing to give extra hands. From there, things started to get better," she said.

FCC provides primary and preventive healthcare for children and adults such as health maintenance, check-ups, and treatment for various illnesses. "FCC is actually here for prevention healthcare for patients not to get worse," said Mitchell.

Last month, CHCC lost 12 specialized nurses with expired CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visas.

The CORE volunteers started working at FCC in mid-July when the nurses affected by the cap left. To date, two volunteers are working in shifts—one in the morning and one in the afternoon—five days a week.

"The CORE volunteers do non-medical work in the clinic such as picking up medication in the pharmacy, lab results, and assist patients. Most importantly, calling for appointments. We remind patients about their scheduled appointments. If we don't call them, they don't show up, then it becomes a waste of a slot for our clinic. There are nine doctors here, with nine full schedules everyday and, most of the time, patients show up because they were called," said Mitchell.

Other departments in the hospital are seeing the advantage of getting volunteers to help them with non-medical work to allow nurses more time to do medical duties and help alleviate the nursing shortage.

"Other departments have seen the help we are getting. CHCC director of nursing Renea Raho was wondering if we can have those volunteers to help them in the in-patient. One of the volunteers was tapped to type policies in the in-patient department," said Mitchell.

"We are now working on getting CORE volunteers certified so they can get blood pressure and vital signs. As soon as we get them certified, it will be more helpful," she added.

ROLL

From Page 1

mission executive director Julita Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that as of 11am yesterday, there are now 12,890 registered voters on Saipan and the Northern Islands, 1,621 on Tinian, and 1,818 on Rota—for a total of 16,329 registered voters in the CNMI.

In the 2016 general election, there were a total of 17,928 registered voters in the CNMI.

The next election is the general election on Nov. 6, 2018, which will include the selection of a governor and lieutenant governor.

Villagomez

Villagomez said a lot of new voters are new high school graduates who have registered with CEC to beat the deadline to submit their scholarship applications.

Voter registration is among the requirements for students to obtain some scholarships and in pursuing college education.

Villagomez said many of those who recently took their oaths as U.S. citizens also registered as new voters.

Last July 3, a total of 28 individuals took their oaths in federal court as new U.S. citizens.

The CEC opened the registration period a week after the November 2016 election. The deadline to register is 60 days before the Nov. 8, 2018 election.

Villagomez encouraged eligible persons to register now as there are no lines.

To register, CEC just needs either a valid U.S. passport or a copy of one's birth certificate.

Even those who are just 17 years old now are already eligible to register as a voter as long as they are qualified and will already be 18 years old by the November 2018 election.

July 9, 2018, is the first day for submission for nominating petitions and candidacy.

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Fed court: No jurisdiction in Guam resident's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a Guam resident against a CNMI corporation in which he is a shareholder, citing lack of jurisdiction.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ruled that because the court does not reach the merits of the case that Joseph D. Lopez Sr. filed against PDJ International Inc., PDJ's motion for summary judgment is denied as moot.

Lopez had sued PDJ for allegedly failing to allow inspection and copying of corporate records and for wrongful distribution of dividends.

In dismissing the case, Manglona said a federal court has jurisdiction over the underlying dispute if the suit is between citizens of different states, and the amount in controversy exceeds $75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

The judge said at the end of discovery, Lopez had received more than 800 pages of corporate documents from PDJ, and been granted access to PDJ's corporate books and records at the Noka Oi Termite & Pest Control Saipan office.

Nevertheless, Manglona said, Lopez could not identify any PDJ funds that he would be entitled to within the relevant time period to support his $240,000 claim.

Manglona said PJD, for its part, has shown that Lopez's claim is for less than $75,000.

Manglona said that, from Oct. 1, 2010, to the end of 2015, PDJ only received $65,445.83. That means Lopez would be entitled to a third of this, $21,815.28, if shareholder dividends were declared.

According to court records, Lopez Sr. is a citizen of Guam who holds one-third of the shares in PDJ International Inc., a CNMI corporation.

The remaining shares are held equally by Paul Romias Sr. and Paul Romias Jr.

PDJ obtains revenue in the form of management fees from No Ka Oi Saipan and dividends from No Ka Oi Philippines, the latter of which PDJ owns 39.9 percent of the stock.

Lopez alleges that beginning in 2010, PDJ failed to issue any shareholder dividends to him despite PDJ continuing to receive management fees from No Ka Oi Saipan and dividends from No Ka Oi Philippines.

From Oct. 1, 2010 though the end of 2015, PDJ received $16,500 in management fees from No Ka Oi Saipan and $48,945.83 in declared dividends from No Ka Oi Philippines, amounting to $65,445.83.

No evidence has been presented to show that dividends were distributed to any PDJ shareholders during this period.

Furthermore, the board of directors of PDJ has resolved to use any declared dividends from No Ka Oi Philippines to pay legal fees, not for shareholder distribution.

Lopez alleges that he was denied access to PDJ's corporate records.

PDJ admits that it did not respond to Lopez's letter or provide copies of the corporate records in 2012 and 2013. PDJ later provided Lopez with more than 800 pages of documents, as well as the opportunity to inspect and copy PDJ's corporate documents.

In 2014, Lopez sued PDJ in federal court on the basis of diversity jurisdiction. Lopez is domiciled in and a citizen of Guam, and PDJ is a CNMI corporation.

He also alleges that the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of $75,000 as he is entitled to one-third of at least $240,000 in unpaid dividends.

In 2016, PDJ filed a motion to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction, asserting that Lopez failed to establish that the amount in controversy exceeded the requisite $75,000.

The court denied the motion without prejudice to allow discovery on the issue of the amount in controversy.

In May 2016, PDJ filed a motion for summary judgment on the grounds that there are no material facts that are subject to dispute.

Lopez then filed a motion to compel discovery with respect to corporate meeting minutes from No Ka Oi Philippines, among other records.

Given that Noka Oi Philippines is outside the court's jurisdiction, the court denied Lopez's motion to compel.

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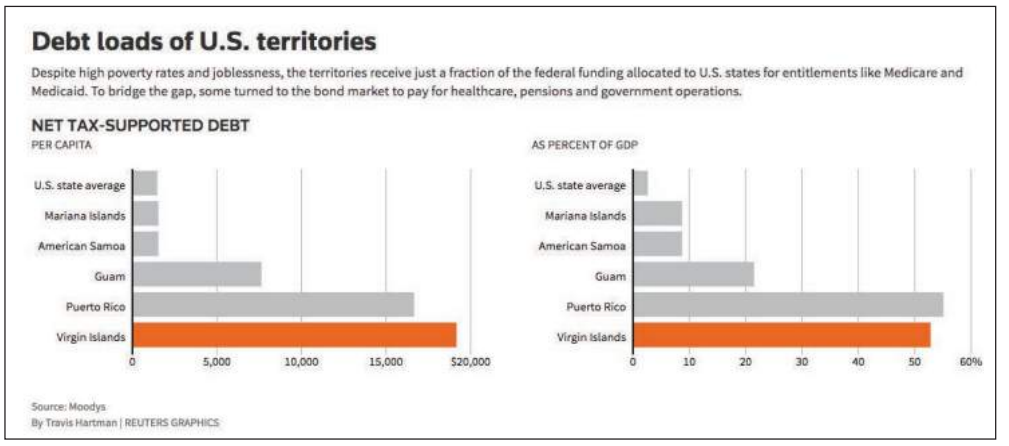
2017 FORD F150 retail price $34,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $456.09 or $210.50 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $32,838.48.
2017 HONDA RIDGELINE retail price $37,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $495.19 or $228.55 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $35,653.68.
2017 NISSAN FRONTIER retail price $26,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $351.82 or $162.33 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $25,323.84.
2017 NISSAN TITAN retail price TBA.

Shunned from bond market, USVI faces cash crisis

ST. CROIX, V.I.—For a glimpse at the precarious financial health of this Caribbean island, visit its public hospital.

Pipes underneath the emergency room collapsed in May, causing waste water to back up through the drains. Now workers and visitors – even patients - use portable toilets set up on the sidewalk. The hospital doesn't have the cash for new plumbing.

For years the U.S. Virgin Islands funded essential public services with help from Wall Street. Investors lined up to purchase its triple-tax-exempt bonds, a form of debt free from municipal, state and federal taxes.



Now the borrowing window has slammed shut. Trouble in neighboring Puerto Rico, which recently filed for a form of bankruptcy after a string of debt defaults, has investors worried that the U.S. Virgin Islands might be next.

With just over 100,000 inhabitants, the protectorate now owes north of $2 billion to bondholders and creditors. That's the biggest per capita debt load of any U.S. territory or state - more than $19,000 for every man, woman and child scattered across the island chain of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. The territory is on the hook for billions more in unfunded pension and healthcare obligations.

"We have a government that we can't afford, and now all of it is converging," said Holland Redfield, a former six-term U.S. Virgin Islands senator who hosts a radio talk show about politics in the territory. "We're getting to the point where we may have a potential meltdown."

Ratings agencies have downgraded the islands' credit ratings deep into junk territory. With the U.S. Virgin Islands shut out of the credit markets after a failed January bond issue, officials are scrambling to stabilize its finances after years of taking on debt to plug yawning budget holes.

The government proposes to slash public spending by 10 percent. It recently hiked taxes on liquor, cigarettes, sugary drinks and vacation timeshares. And it has threatened to auction homes and businesses of property-tax deadbeats.

Governor Kenneth Mapp is quick to reassure bondholders that they get first crack at one of the territory's largest funding sources: rum taxes. The money pays debt service before heading to government coffers, a protection called a lockbox.

The U.S. Virgin Islands has "never been late on a payment, much less defaulted on a bond or loan agreement," Mapp said during his State of the Territory address in January.

But how these islands will recover from years of budget deficits and a severe liquidity crisis remains to be seen. The territory lost its single-largest private employer five years ago when a refinery shut down. Gross domestic product has declined by almost one-third since 2008. At times this year the government was operating with just two days' cash on hand.

Locals live with pitted roads, crumbling schools, electricity outages and deteriorating medical care.

At the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center, plumbing troubles are just the beginning. Doctors have stopped performing some vital procedures, including implanting pacemakers and heart defibrillators, because the facility can't pay suppliers for the devices, officials say.

"We have gone from bad to worse, and the patients are the ones who are suffering," said Dr. Kendall Griffith, an interventional cardiologist who recently left the island to take a job in a Georgia hospital. "It's forcing physicians to make hard decisions."

Forgotten islands

Before Puerto Rico imploded under $70 billion in debt and $50 billion of unfunded pension liabilities, few in Washington noticed troubles brewing in the other inhabited U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Residents of these places are U.S. citizens, but they can't vote in presidential elections and their Washington delegates are non-voting figureheads. Despite high poverty rates and joblessness, the territories receive just a fraction of the federal funding allocated to U.S. states for entitlements such as Medicare and Medicaid.

To bridge the gap, some have turned to the bond market. Bond issues typically fund infrastructure and capital projects. But in the case of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, officials increasingly relied on borrowed money to fund government operations.

Debt loads for both territories have grown to staggering proportions, now surpassing 50 percent of their respective GDPs. That's higher than anywhere in the nation and sharply above the state median of 2.2 percent, Moody's Investors Service found.

(For a graphic on U.S. territory debt, see: http://tmsnrt.rs/2h8TGIo)

Bond buyers for years whistled past the territories' shaky finances, comforted in the knowledge that these governments couldn't seek bankruptcy protections available to many municipalities.

"There was an idea that because of the lockbox structure and the fact that the territories did not have a path to bankruptcy, they had to pay you," said Curtis Erickson, San Francisco-based managing director of Preston Hollow Capital, a municipal specialty finance company.

That all changed in 2016 when Congress passed legislation known as PROMESA giving Puerto Rico its first access to debt restructuring. The move sparked a ferocious battle among creditors to see who would shoulder the largest losses.

Investors quickly surmised the U.S. Virgin Islands might pursue the same strategy. In December, S&P Global Ratings downgraded the territory by a stunning seven notches to B from BBB+, putting it well below investment grade.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is

See SHUNNED on Next Page

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SHUNNED

From Page 8

adamant that S&P and other ratings agencies overreacted. The territory has been unfairly "tainted by Puerto Rico's pending bankruptcy," and has no intention of pursuing debt restructuring, said Lonnie Soury, a government spokesman.

In addition to tax hikes and budget cuts, he said the current administration is looking to do more with its tourism and horse racing industries to boost development.

Big debts, few options

In the meantime, the U.S. Virgin Islands is trapped in a circle of hock that's making it tough to maneuver.

The government and its two public hospitals, for example, owe a combined $28 million to the territory's water and power authority, known as WAPA. In turn, WAPA owes about $44 million to two former fuel vendors.

Then there's the $3.4 billion of unfunded liabilities for public pensions and retiree healthcare. The pension fund is 19.6 percent funded and projected to run out of money by 2023.

Pensioners can wait months before their annuities start, because the government is behind on its contributions. St. Croix resident Stephen Cohen, 67, said it took almost a year after he retired as a high school biology teacher before he received his first check in 2016.

"A lot of people are financially stressed," Cohen said. "They didn't realize how bad things would get."

Territory officials can't say how they will close a projected $100 million budget shortfall for this fiscal year. That's on top of an accumulated net deficit of $4.4 billion, according to government financial records.

Back at Juan F. Luis Hospital, officials hope to move the emergency room into the cardiac wing so repairs can begin on the collapsed pipes.

The government has pledged $3 million for the job, but Tim Lessing, the facility's chief financial officer, wonders if he'll see it.

"The territory is in a tough position," Lessing said. "Nobody's buying the paper." ***(Reuters)***

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NPS awards $27K grant to preserve WWII sites on Saipan

WASHINGTON—The National Park Service announced today $1.2 million in grants that will be used to help communities preserve and protect America's significant battlefields, to include a project in the Northern Mariana Islands for $27,000.

From lesser known battles that took place before the American Revolution to those fought as a part of World War II, historians and preservationists will use these funds to study and preserve battlefields that capture the American story across the United States and its territories.

In the CNMI, $27,000 will be awarded to Ships of Exploration and Discovery. This project seeks to place the Battle of Saipan coastline area that contains the remains of both American and Japanese aircrafts, ships, and other battle vehicles on the National Register of Historic Places, while supplying additional site identification and documentation of artifacts to provide additional historical context. The information will assist local communities to create better strategies of heritage tourism.

"We are excited to partner with public and private organizations committed to protecting and preserving our country's historic national treasures," said acting National Park Service director Michael T. Reynolds. "Through these grants, and the work the grantees are accomplishing, we are ensuring that these hallowed sites are protected and maintained for future generations."

This year's American Battlefield Protection Program planning grants provide funding for projects at endangered battlefields ranging from the Indian Wars to the unification of Hawaii and the American Civil War. Earlier this month Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced $7.2 million in additional grants to help identify, preserve, and protect nearly 1,200 acres of battlefield land as part of the American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants program.

Since 1996, the American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded 579 planning grant awards totaling $19,620,955 to help preserve significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. Federal, tribal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, as well as educational institutions are eligible for the battlefield grants, which are awarded annually.

More information about the American Battlefield Protection Program Battlefield Planning Grants is available online atwww.nps.gov/abpp/grants/planninggrants.htm. ***(PR)***

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UOG research shows 2.3M gallons of fresh water flowing to Guam sea

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Environmental Science students from the University of Guam take measurements from Ayuyu Cave earlier this summer to gather information on the volume of fresh water discharging into the ocean.

Shalilian

Over several weeks this summer, University of Guam scientists and graduate students measured the freshwater outflow from Ayuyu Cave to gather information on the volume of fresh water discharging into the ocean from Guam's primary aquifer.

The results showed that 2.3 million gallons of freshwater flows daily into the ocean from Ayuyu Cave, located on the island's rocky northwestern coast. This significant finding was part of Ida Shalilian's thesis research for her master's degree in Environmental Science

Shalilian defended her thesis in January and returned to Guam to gather more data after receiving a travel grant from the Research Corp. of the University of Guam. She graduated with a Master of Science in Environmental Science in May 2017.

Shalilian presented her updated research findings as well as related information on associated geological features to Guam Waterworks Authority professionals on June 8, 2017.

"The freshwater discharge from Ayuyu Cave can only be measured during the low tides of May and June, which is the end of Guam's dry season," said Dr. John Jenson, director of the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific. "Rainy seasons may produce higher volumes of freshwater discharge, so this finding is of significant value to Guam."

Freshwater resources are critically important to island communities. Information about the natural plumbing of the northern Guam aquifer provides local resource managers, such as GWA, with valuable insights

This information will be published in a WERI technical report, a refereed research paper, and made available to the public on WERI's website.

"Ida's work is just one example of the valuable research produced by graduates of the Environmental Science program at UOG," Jenson said

For more information contact Jenson at jjenson@triton.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN

* Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

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Breakfast Buffet $17 **Sunday Brunch $22 Father's Day Brunch $25** *Seafood & Sushi Night* Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $17	Breakfast Buffet $17 *Seafood & Sushi Night* Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $17	Breakfast Buffet $17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $17 *Seafood & Sushi Night* Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)

RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
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Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
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Dinner Buffet Location:
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Business Hours: 6pm-9pm

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Business Hours: 1pm-10pm
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Notice to all Kagman farm plot permittees

This is to inform all permittees that Department of Land and Natural Resource agents will be conducting scheduled visits as well as permitting inspections to all Kagman farm plots to determine whether permittees are in compliance with the rules and policies set forth in the Governing Uses of the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot permit.

In order to address issues with violations, DLNR has already begun issuing eviction notices to any permittee engaging in the subleasing or transferring of farm plot(s) to a corporation or partner. This includes the use of the plots to cultivate forbidden substances.

Please call the DLNR-Division of Agriculture if there are any questions or concerns to this notice at 256-3318/19 or 322-9834. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 10

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Becky Robles, NCDB director, and her presentation will on NCD Bureau Services. Joining her will be Nikki Sablan, PROA program coordinator and Joyce Songsong, breast and cervical program coordinator. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Military training in waters surrounding Guam

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in waters around Guam within a five-mile nautical radius of the following coordinates 13° 28" 60'N/144° 25"00'E, on Aug. 7, from 6:30am to 3pm, and Aug. 8-11, from midnight to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

Saturday Story Time in August at AMP

Youth of all ages are invited to join the American Memorial Park on Saturdays (Aug. 12, 19, and 26) from 2pm to 3pm for story time. During the hour, read *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. This book tells the story of a young girl from Hiroshima, Japan who becomes sick with leukemia in the years after the atomic bomb was dropped on her city, and her race to fold 1,000 paper cranes. Following the reading, everyone will be invited to make paper cranes, just like Sadako did in the story. Throughout the month, 1,000 paper cranes will be folded and sent to the Children's Peace Memorial in Hiroshima Japan.

To learn more about this program or other happenings at the park, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

Military training at FDM, Guam waters

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until today, Aug. 4, from 10am to 10pm.

The military will also conduct training in waters around Guam within a five-mile nautical radius of the following coordinates 13° 28" 60'N/144° 25"00'E, on Aug. 4-5, from midnight to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

US Navy releases new input dates

The U.S. Navy will accept public comments about the Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact statement for the Mariana Island Training and Testing area until Sept. 15, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by Sept. 15, 2017, for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at www.MITT-EIS.com or mail to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makapala Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134. ***(PR)***

Free Veterans Choice workshops next week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is hosting next week a series of Veterans Choice workshops that are open to veterans, their families, and members of the public who would like to learn more about veterans' options for healthcare through the Veterans Administration's Choice program.

The workshops are scheduled as follows:

- Rota: Aug. 8, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, NMC instructional site, Room A-1
- Tinian: Aug. 9, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, Tinian Public Library
- Saipan: Aug. 10, 2017, from 5pm to 7pm, Pedro T. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and TriWest (the VA's third-party administrator for the Choice program) will be present to share information and answer questions. ***(PR)***

NMC registration for fall semester ongoing

Registration at the Northern Marianas College for the fall 2017 semester is ongoing until Aug. 18, 2017. Late registration/advising period: Aug. 14 -18, 2017

Placement tests: July 31 to Aug. 3 and Aug. 7 to Aug. 10; to schedule your placement test, call 237-6774 or email date/time preference to isabel.matsunaga@marianas.edu. Proceed to the Office of Admissions & Records (Building N) to obtain a placement test form. Make payment ($25 per test) at the NMC Cashier Window (Building N).

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2017 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

SSHS new student orientation set

Saipan Southern High School will have a new student orientation for Monday, Aug. 7, 2017, at 10am and 2pm at the school cafeteria. Parents of new students attending Saipan Southern High School can attend either session (10am or 2pm). ***(PR)***

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5000 BTU WINDOW TYPE AIRCON $179.99

VA benefits outreach on Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan on Aug. 31, 2017, and will be conducting a benefits workshop/claims clinic and outreach at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The workshop/claims clinic will be from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Veterans will also be meeting one-on-one with the benefit counselor from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Workshop topics include VA benefits, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation & employment, death benefits & education benefits. Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist with the claim process. ***(PR)***

OES information out

Oleai Elementary School PTSA is inviting all students, parents, guardians, family and the community to the school on Aug. 5, 2017, from 8am to 11:30am to beautify the school campus.

OES would also like to invite all incoming and continuing students with their parents and guardians for orientation and Open House.

• Orientation will take place in the school cafeteria for all grade levels (Kindergarten to 5th grade) on Aug. 10 and Aug. 11, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm. Parents and guardians can choose to come on either night.

Continued on Next Page

• Open House will take place on the following dates for the following grade levels, as follows:

■ Kindergarten to 2nd grade: Aug. 17, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm

■ 3rd grade to 5th grade: Aug. 18, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm ***(PR)***

BECQ sets Laulau Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Laulau Beach on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, at 8 am.

To volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Laulau Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

GES Open House, PTSA meeting set

Garapan Elementary School has scheduled the new school year Open House for Thursday, Aug. 17, beginning at 5:30pm, with PTSA meeting in the cafeteria. Ensure that you have submitted the registration form that was sent out prior to the end of school year 2016-2017 as well as your child's updated documents (school entrance health certificate and updated health insurance). Call the main office at 664-3951 to verify that your child's registration documents are complete.

The free meal application is available at the GES main office. Each year, families and households must complete a new application to avail of free school meals. Students who were free last school year must reapply. The grace period for free students is 30 days after school year 2017-2018 begins.

To avoid delays in free meal services due to application processing, the PSS Child Nutrition Program should receive all forms and supporting documents on or before Sept. 15, 2017. One application per family.

For any questions or inquires, communicate with the PSS Child Nutrition Program at 664-3901/3902 or the GES main office at 664-3951.

Properly complete the new bus form to avail of bus services. Forms can be picked up at the GES main office. For any questions or support, you may call the Office of Pupil Transportation at 322-9457. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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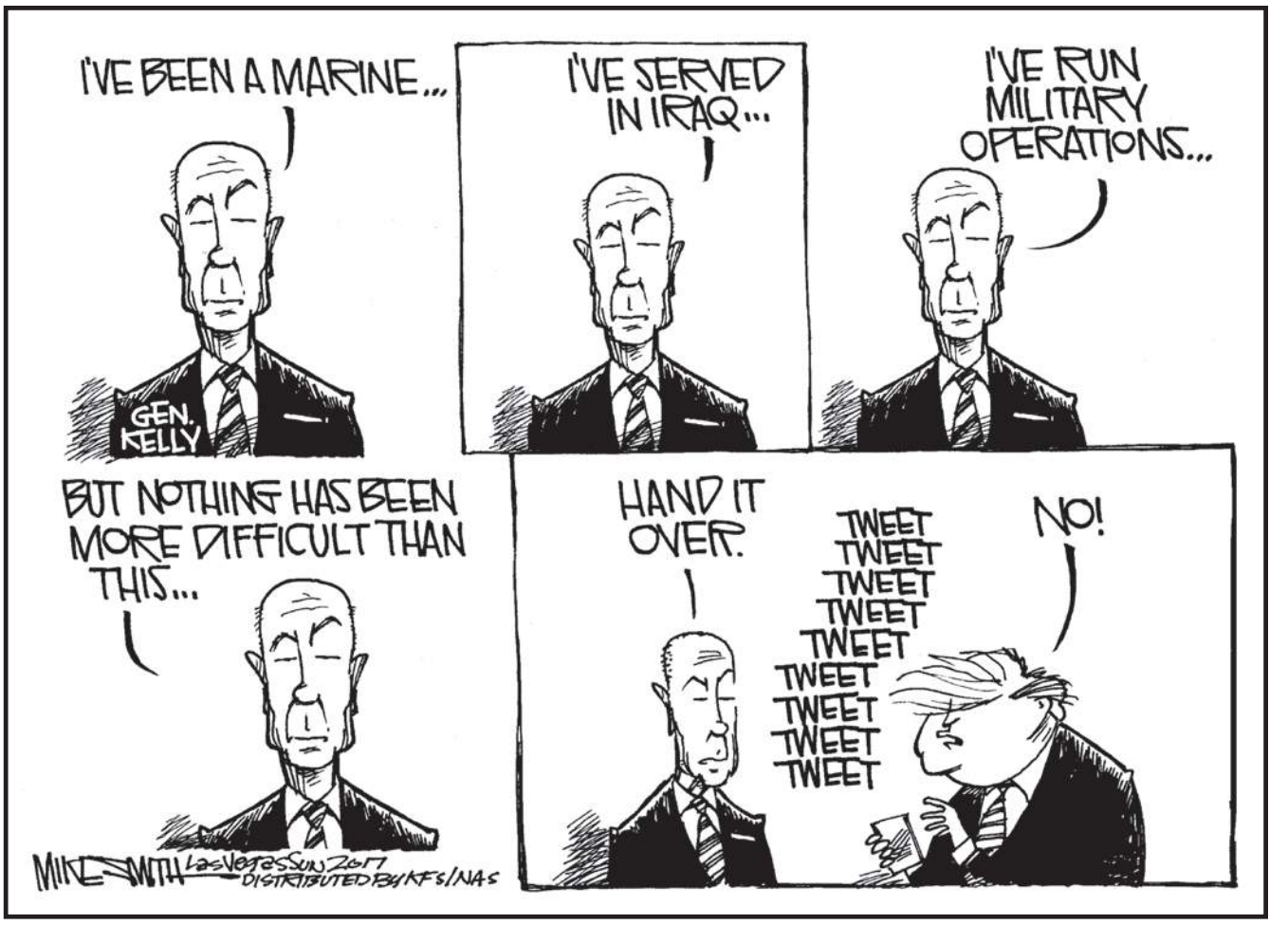

I'VE BEEN A MARINE...
GEN. KELLY
I'VE SERVED IN IRAQ...
I'VE RUN MILITARY OPERATIONS...
BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN THIS...
HAND IT OVER.
TWEET TWEET TWEET TWEET TWEET TWEET TWEET TWEET TWEET
NO!
MIKE SMITH LasVegasSun 2017 DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS

EDITORIAL

Russia retaliates against US sanctions by shooting itself in the foot

The sanctions game being played by the United States and Russia is unfolding in three dimensions. The first is moral, the second is economic, the third is domestic politics in both nations. Nothing is really as it seems.

President Donald Trump, whose election the Russians helped to engineer, is now confronted with the political necessity of signing a new sanctions bill that passed both houses of Congress by overwhelming majorities. Trump may yearn to move forward on relations with Russia, but Republicans and Democrats alike agreed that the moral codes of international law should still apply. They're right.

The sanctions are more than justified. Russia seized and annexed Crimea, part of the sovereign nation of Ukraine, in 2014. It provided the missile its rebel surrogates used to shoot down a Malaysian airliner overflying Ukraine, and it continues to interfere in Ukraine's affairs. The U.S. and the European Union imposed economic sanctions, but Russian President Vladimir Putin has not apologized for what Russia did in Ukraine, much less reversed course.

Congress has now said the U.S. cannot tacitly excuse Russia's behavior by easing sanctions.

In December, President Barack Obama imposed further sanctions after the U.S. intelligence community unanimously agreed that Russian hackers, at Putin's direction, had interfered with last year's presidential election. Obama expelled 35 Russian diplomats and seized two Russian-owned compounds on the East Coast.

Putin has denied any election meddling, and his government has accused the U.S. of being "highway robbers" for seizing Russian property. He didn't retaliate in December because he'd been led to believe by people close to Trump that the incoming president would ease the sanctions.

But questions of Russian interference, and possible collusion by people close to Trump, have boxed him in. With congressional committees and a special counsel looking into the allegations, the White House announced Trump would sign the sanctions bill.

Putin is now striking back, ordering the U.S. mission in Russia downsized by 755 people. Most of them will be Russian nationals working at U.S. facilities. The response was disproportionate, but Putin's government depends on convincing his own voters that Russia is a major world power that won't be bullied by the West.

The tit-for-tat will hurt both nations, but is still short of what Congress intended for Russia. The European Union, which prefers to do business with Russia as close to usual as possible, won't go along with anything tough-

See RUSSIA on Next Page

The path of totality

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

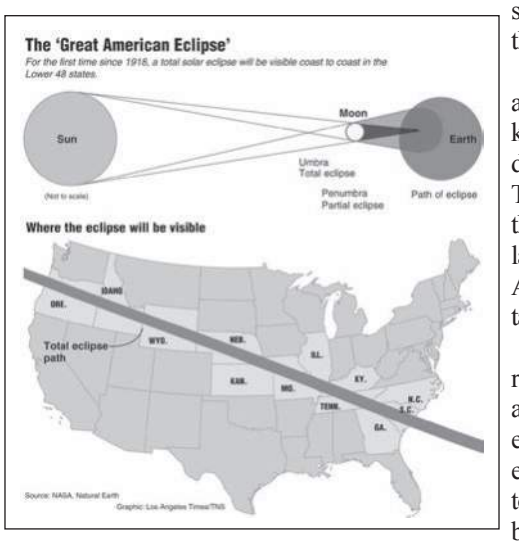
Here's a phrase that's making the rounds: "path of totality."

The phrase refers to the geographic ribbon on the earth's surface where the moon entirely covers the sun during a solar eclipse. There's a lot of buzz about it because of the upcoming "Great American Eclipse." This will occur on Aug. 21 (mainland time). The path of totality will extend between Oregon and South Carolina like a seat belt running diagonally across the nation.

Some of my pals were inking their plans for the event two or three years ago.

One such guy wasn't granted the necessary vacation time by his boss. The guy is going to do a Johnny Paycheck ("Take this job and shove it") and ghost from his job when the time comes. Hey, problem solved.

I know two other guys who bought campers so they can make long road trips out of the event. They're going to keep a close eye on weather forecasts so they can position themselves accordingly. Other people will be staying in hotel rooms and hoping their skies aren't cloudy when the big moment finally arrives.



Astronomy magazines, tourism organizations, and various manufacturers of astronomical gear are on the bandwagon.

Likewise, news reports in the general press are circulating along with stern warnings that you shouldn't look directly at the sun without appropriate filters. Me, I wonder how many people were planning on staring at the sun but who reconsidered their plans after reading newspaper articles that advised against it.

If I were to make one point about this gig, it would be this: It doesn't take a major event, such as an eclipse, to enjoy the skies. The popular emphasis on newsworthy events is understandable, but the celestial show is always intriguing.

However, many people don't give it any thought just as many people don't give their health a thought, up until some event compels attention. The wonder of the ordinary is not an outlook with broad appeal.

Anyway, ads for sorts of items for eclipse viewing have passed under my nose, but I haven't tried any of the products so I can't come up with any recommendations.

Now that we're on the topic, though, there is something with a celestial orientation that I highly recommend, not for the eclipse, but for general use in bare-eye stargazing. The fancy name for such devices is "planisphere." It's basically a star map with a rotating dial that accounts for the user's latitude, time of day, and time of year. The brand I recommend is a plastic device called "The Night Sky." It's made by the David Chandler Company. It shows the most prominent stars and constellations. A few other highlights (e.g. galaxies and other stuff beyond bare-eye range) are also charted. These planispheres come in two sizes, large and small. I suggest the large. It's roughly the size of a sheet of typing paper.

Various models of "The Night Sky" are made for various latitudes. As far as I know, Saipan's latitude (15 degrees north) does not fall within any of these models. There is, however, a model that covers the 20-degree to 30-degree band of north latitudes. That's close enough to be useful. After all, we're talking about basic orientation here, not precision moon shots.

The street prices for these things are roughly $10 to $12. I've probably bought a dozen of them over the years. I've given a few away. I've lost a few, too. However, despite my best efforts I have yet to destroy one of them, although I'm just bright enough, or at least lucky enough, not to have left one of these thin plastic disks inside a hot car.

The manager of a well-stocked telescope store once told me that he gets an uptick in customer inquiries whenever there's a big astronomical event in the news, but, outside of the few people whose attention really gets hooked by the gig, things quickly subside after the event. I think the paradox is that the big events are often used to attract attention and business, but confining the field to an occasionally dramatic spectacle really overlooks its strongest appeal.

After all, from what I've seen, there is nothing mundane about the ordinary, and there is nothing as chaotic as that which gave birth to order. Do I understand it? Probably not. But, then again, I don't have to. For me, it's just enough to look.

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Editor's Note: John S. DelRosario's column, which usually moves every Friday, won't move today. DelRosario plans to resume his columns in September 2017.

Trump's numbers show how bad things are for him

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics. *Readers may email him at jbernstein62@bloomberg.net.*

Donald Trump's approval ratings have been moving down again over the last three weeks, and Tuesday he finally broke through to a new low of 37.8 percent approval in FiveThirtyEight's daily estimate, just a bit below the previous floor at 38.0 percent.

The other polling aggregators tell much the same story; the RealClearPolitics average has him at 39.2 percent and just above his all-time low, while the Huffington Post estimate is 38.7 percent approval, a low. Disapproval has spiked up, to a Trump high of 56.7, according to FiveThirtyEight; the other aggregators tell much the same story.

Using the FiveThirtyEight numbers, the new low—which might turn out to be a one-day fluke—ends an 11-week string in which his approval floated between 38.0 and 39.9 percent, giving new ammunition to those analysts who believe that partisan polarization gives Trump a high floor. Indeed, RealClearPolitics' David Byler published a perfectly fine item Tuesday morning speculating about why Trump's approval was so stable.

And perhaps it will be. On other hand, Trump's approval has been sliding within that stable range for the last month, and now has broken through the bottom of it. Or, to zoom back a bit, it seems just as likely that Trump has been falling all along and we just didn't see it because there's a lot of noise both in the very short term effect of day-to-day events, and in the polling itself.

Just as likely, that is—it certainly is still possible Trump is trapped in a narrow approval band and Tuesday was just an illusion.

But I don't think so. I continue to see a lot of hand-waving, but no solid evidence that recent presidents have any different floor (or ceiling, for that matter) than did Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush. I don't think Barack Obama was propped up by partisan polarization; I think his approval ratings stayed in a narrow band after the first few months (and they did) because of the events of his presidency.

Look, neither side can prove anything at this point. But it sure seems strange to me to believe that we're in a world with low ceilings and high floors for presidential approval, even though George W. Bush had the record-large approval range over the course of his presidency, while Trump is once again the least-approved-of president at this stage of his career ever (just edging Gerald Ford in approval, but well below everyone in net approval). And net approval (that is, approval minus disapproval)? Trump's current total, a dismal -19 percent, is worse than the worst figures ever achieved by Obama, Bill Clinton, Ford, Lyndon Johnson, John Kennedy and Dwight Eisenhower, and he could easily dive below Ronald Reagan's worst later this week.

As an approximate rule of thumb, anything under 40 percent is what gets Republican governors and senators to start thinking about taking family vacations in Iowa and New Hampshire; anything below 30 percent makes a serious nomination challenge a strong possibility. Not to mention the damage it will likely cause for the Republican Party in midterm elections.

There's still plenty of time to reverse things, but don't dismiss how bad things are for Trump right now.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Buenas yan hafa ada, chairman Francisco M. Borja of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development & Programs:

On behalf of Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement, I humbly take this opportunity this morning to once again reiterate our opposition to the intent of Senate Bill 20-35 authored by Senate President Arnold Palacios. This public policy, as it is written, is centered around and more toward the best interest of investors.

Again, a 75-year lease on public land is too long and definitely against the best interest of the beneficiaries of all public lands as this will deprive the future generations of Chamorro children the opportunity to participate in the disposition and management of their trust land.

We continue to advocate that this type of legislation impacts the core mandate of our policies and disposition of public lands that bore responsibility toward the beneficiaries. We must continue to be cognizant that one of the fundamental values of our agreement with the United States of America under the Covenant §805—which is one of the foundations to our established relationship—is the management and disposition of public lands.

We recognize that effort of the REDP Committee in taking this issue to the beneficiaries on Saipan, including Luta and Tinian, to allow the beneficiaries residing in the respective islands an opportunity to comment on this significant piece of legislation.

However, I believe the committee must also provide public hearings outside the NMI to allow the beneficiaries who are temporarily residing elsewhere the opportunity to provide comments and recommendation to the members of this honorable committee on the intentions of S.B. 20-35.

Again, it is our fervent hope that the members thoroughly and carefully review and evaluate the impact of this legislation on our people, especially on the future generation of beneficiaries of our scarce and invaluable asset – land. We must also be cognizant that even the United States government makes these lands invaluable in securing its national security as espoused by the U.S. Department of Defense policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Legislature must allow for the existing public leases to expire as intended. This will allow for better negotiating options by the government on behalf of and in the best interest of the beneficiaries. To allow the existing leases—such as Fiesta Resort, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort, Hyatt Regency, Coral Ocean Point, Palms Resort, etc.—to be automatically renewed is an example of exploitation.

We must engage our discussions on what more direct benefits for the beneficiaries can be achieved from these current and future investors of our public lands other than just outright lease.

Additionally, the Legislature must define what is "reasonable compensation." The language and standard in this bill is vague and broad. This allows DPL and prospective lessee to define what is reasonable compensation. This in itself is blatantly exploitative language in public policy and not protecting the best interest of the beneficiaries.

The Legislature is aware that for decades DPL and MPLT continue to argue to define what is "reasonable expense" that DPL continues to expend millions of dollars of trust funds in support of its "administrative expense," and what is "reasonable" by DPL to transfer to MPLT for investments on behalf of and in the best interest of the beneficiaries. This scenario has become a contested issue, including the most recent definition on what should and should not be transferred to MPLT (e.g., settlement monies from the DPL vs Kan Pacific/IPI). This is a typical example of exploitation and against ensuring the best interest of the beneficiaries of public lands.

It is our advocacy intent that when we oppose public policy, we also provide for recommendations. As such the following are some areas of recommendation for the members of the REDP committee and the Legislature to consider:

1. Revisit the language in the public land leases on "assignment" provisions. This provision has been exploited in the last decade and more obviously pervasive in the recent public land lease assignment transactions. Public policy should instead remove this provision and revert it to DPL for disposition of the land.

2. Revisit language on DPL's appraised value at "not less than 10 percent" when executing public land leases. That public policy should ensure that appraised value of public land lease "should not be less than 90 percent of the appraised value." And if there is no sufficient economic valuation on the respective public land, then public policy must ensure the greatest amount possible for the land in such language "should not be less than $100 per square meters." As we have witnessed, public land leases have been assessed merely *10 cents* per square meters on a 30,000 square meters of public land in Obyan, a culturally sensitive site and land for possible future economic development.

3. Revisit the language that allowed DPL to make radical changes to public land policies and regulations on the treatment of public land through only 120 days of administrative rule making. This should define what can be done administratively and legislatively (i.e. management and disposition of our 150 feet shoreline and what type of land can be assessed a parking facility land lease fee, etc.). This abuse of authority was most obvious in the recent disposition of public land enumerated in the March 28, 2017, administrative rule that is now effective on July 28, 2017. DPL should not be allowed to reduce its public information to a three-sentence notice in the media and without ample time for input because a 30-day comment period is grossly insufficient.

4. The Legislature (with comments from the beneficiaries) must define what is "reasonable administrative expenses" to expend trust monies, and must submit DPL's budget to the Legislature for appropriation, the same as any department and agency of the government. It should not be reduced to "for information purposes only."

5. The Legislature must repeal Public Law 15-2 because this is what's enabling DPL to abuse and mismanage public lands—resources that are in trust on behalf of the beneficiaries. Decision-making should not be reduced to two individuals, the DPL secretary and governor. The Legislature must put back the governing board as it did with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

6. DPL must ensure transparency and accountability in the expenditure of trust monies. The Legislature must ensure that DPL provides a platform for the beneficiaries to access information on its expenditure—such as capital purchases, information on the need for professional staff and administrative staff—to ensure DPL's annual program objective and policy is consistent with its mission and purpose.

In closing, here is a scenario or a foresight of S.B. 20-35 if this legislation becomes law this year. It would mean that a Chamorro child born in 2017 would not have the opportunity to participate in the management and disposition of their trust land until 2092 or have attained their 75th birthday—if they outlive this longer lease term and are not suffering from early state of dementia and/or Alzheimer to make prudent and reasonable decisions. It is critically important that engaging the stakeholders to define the current problems is the way to create positive solutions.

I remain humble and look forward for the consideration of this honorable committee to disapprove S.B. 20-35 and embark on further public engagements to discuss positive options to this proposed bill to reach a comprehensive legislation that will ensure greatest protection and benefit for the generations of Chamorro children, including your grandchildren who are ultimately the beneficiaries of public lands.

Liana M.S. Hofschneider
President/founding member
Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement

RUSSIA

From Page 14

er. By including Iran and North Korea in the new sanctions, Congress fell prey to unrelated political pressures.

The U.S. sanctions have hurt some Putin cronies and helped others. Their overall effect on the Russian economy has been dampened by market reforms and stabilizing oil prices. This boils down to who blinks first: a Russian autocrat, or an envious U.S. president who is still restrained by the rule of law.

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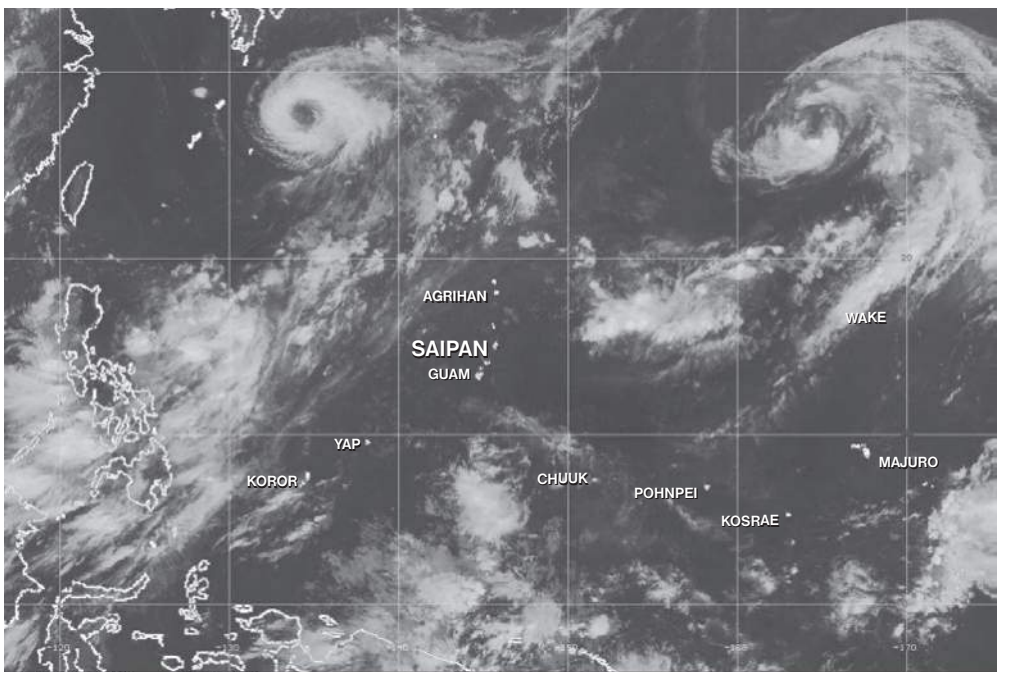
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:55 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest GFS has lighter winds than previously expected as a weak ridge builds in from the east over the weekend and early next week. ECMWF supports lighter winds as well, so have used these winds in the current forecast. Otherwise, basic forecast is changed very little, with isolated thunderstorms through Friday. Next week looks dry as the ridge builds over the region and stays a while.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
London	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Los Angeles	Sunny	92° / 72°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Windy	55° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 83°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Busan	Sunny	90° / 81°
Rome	Sunny	106° / 79°
Salem	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	95° / 79°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
11:49 AM	LOW TIDE	0.00
6:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
12:03 AM	LOW TIDE	1.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:49 AM	3:58 PM
Saturday	-	3:36 AM	4:47 PM
Sunday	-	4:25 AM	5:34 PM
Monday	-	5:16 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	-	6:08 AM	7:06 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

MCS students show gains in national standardized tests

Mount Carmel School announced yesterday that its students fared very well in recently administered SAT-10 and College Board AP national standardized tests.

In a statement, the school said the results "show significant improvement" in all subjects across all grade levels.

"On average, students performed at or above the 50th percentile on the SAT-10 and improved from the previous year. For the complete 2017 battery, the average performance of all students was in the 52nd percentile, up from the 48th percentile in 2016," the statement added.

National percentile ranks indicate the relative standing of a student in comparison with other students in the same grade in the norm reference group who took the test at a comparable time.

Based on the school's results, students at Mount Carmel School scored, on average, better than 52 percent of the rest of the nation, said school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who is quoted in the statement.

"Performance on specific subject areas also showed marked improvement from previous years. The average performance in math increased from the 51st percentile in 2016 to the 52nd percentile in 2017, while the average performance in reading increased from the 44th percentile in 2016 to the 47th percentile in 2017," the statement adds. "The average in science increased from the 52nd percentile in 2016 to the 55th percentile in 2017, while the average in social studies increased from the 49th percentile in 2016 to the 50th percentile in 2017."

The statement said that its high school students also demonstrated marked improvement in the College Board AP Tests. In AP English Literature and Composition, average student performance improved by 43 percent from 2016 to 2017, while average performance in AP U.S. Government and Politics improved by 19 percent in the same timeframe, it added.

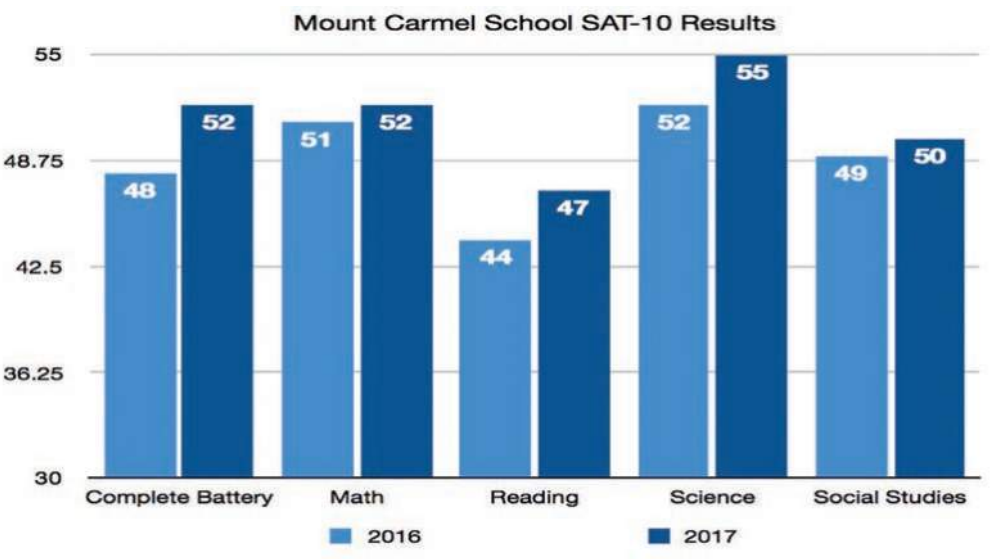
Deleon Guerrero attributed the success to the school's consistent emphasis on instructional quality and initiatives to boost literacy.

"We are constantly improving in the area of instructional quality, especially under the leadership of our principal, Frances Taimanao, and vice principal, Helene Manning," he said. "Plus, tools like Achieve3000 are helping our teachers meet the individual needs of all our students."

Achieve3000 is a cloud-based suite of interactive readings, formative assessments, and other resources that promote differentiated instruction and interdisciplinary reading for all grade levels.

Last year, incoming 6th grader Leyonne Tolentino was recognized by Achieve3000 for ranking as one of the nation's top readers two years in a row.

Achieve3000 consultant Troy Akiyama even visited the school to personally congratulate Tolentino. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Results from the recently administered SAT-10 national standardized test show significant improvement in Mount Carmel School student performance across all subject areas.

EEOC sues Cutter Mazda of Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a lawsuit against Cutter Mazda of Honolulu alleging discrimination against a job applicant due to his disability. EEOC contends that Cutter Mazda denied an applicant a job based on his hearing impairment.

Such alleged conduct violates the Americans with Disabilities Act. The EEOC filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement. The agency seeks back pay, compensatory and punitive damages on behalf of the applicant, along with injunctive relief to prevent and address disability discrimination from happening in the future.

"Disability discrimination remains a persistent problem that needs more attention by employers," said Anna Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District, which includes Hawaii in its jurisdiction.

Glory Gervacio Saure, director of the EEOC's Honolulu Local Office said, "Applicants should not be denied a position under the assumption that the individual cannot do the essential functions of the job."

MJC, Inc. and GAC Auto Group, Inc. dba Cutter Mazda of Honolulu operates four automobile dealerships on the island of Oahu. According to their website, www.cuttermazdahonolulu.com, Cutter Mazda sells new and certified pre-owned vehicles, provides vehicle finance services, along with automobile repair parts and services.

Eliminating barriers in hiring, especially hiring practices that discriminate against people with disabilities, is one of six national priorities identified by the Commission's Strategic Enforcement Plan. ***(PR)***

Business

EPA chief reverses decision to delay rules on emissions

WASHINGTON (AP)—One day after getting sued by 15 states, Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt on Wednesday reversed his earlier decision to delay implementation of Obama-era rules reducing emissions of smog-causing air pollutants.

Pruitt presented the change as his agency being more responsive than past administrations to the needs of state environmental regulators. He made no mention of the legal challenge filed against his prior position in a federal appeals court.

At issue is an Oct. 1 deadline for states to begin meeting 2015 standards for ground-level ozone. Pruitt announced in June he would delay compliance by one year to give his agency more time to study the plan and avoid "interfering with local decisions or impeding economic growth."

Pruitt, who served as Oklahoma's state attorney general prior to his appointment by President Donald Trump, has long served as a reliable opponent of stricter environmental regulations. Since arriving in Washington, Pruitt has repeatedly moved to block or delay regulations opposed by the chemical and fossil-fuel industries.

Wednesday's sudden reversal is the latest legal setback for Pruitt's regulatory rollback agenda. Last month, a federal appeals court in Washington ruled the EPA administrator overstepped his authority in trying to delay implementation of an Obama administration rule requiring oil and gas companies to monitor and reduce methane leaks.

In a statement issued Wednesday evening, Pruitt suggested his about-face on ozone standards simply reinforced the EPA's commitment to working with states through the complex process of meeting the new standards on time.

"Under previous administrations, EPA would often fail to meet designation deadlines, and then wait to be sued by activist groups and others, agreeing in a settlement to set schedules for designation," said Pruitt, who sued EPA more than a dozen times in his prior job. "We do not believe in regulation through litigation, and we take deadlines seriously. We also take the statute and the authority it gives us seriously."

Still, the EPA's statement said Pruitt may at some point once again use his "delay authority and all other authority legally available" to ensure regulations "are founded on sound policy and the best available information."

Republicans in Congress are pushing for a broader rewrite of the ozone rules. A House bill approved last month seeks to delay implementation of the 2015 rules at least eight years. The measure has not yet been brought to a vote in the Senate.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who led the coalition of states that sued the EPA this week, said the group intends to keep up the legal pressure.

"The EPA's reversal—following our lawsuits—is an important win for the health and safety of those 6.7 million New Yorkers, and the over 115 million Americans directly impacted by smog pouring into their communities," Schneiderman said.

New York was joined in the case by California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Ground-level ozone is created when common pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, oil refineries, chemical plants and other sources react in the atmosphere to sunlight. The resulting smog can cause serious breathing problems among sensitive groups of people, contributing to thousands of premature deaths each year.

Public health advocates and environmentalists cheered Pruitt's surprising change of course.

"It's disturbing how much pressure it took to get this commonsense step from the guy in charge of protecting the air we breathe," said Lori Ann Burd of the Center for Biological Diversity. "We've got to keep fighting the Trump administration's ideological crusade to pander to polluters and special interests."

Trump backs GOP plan to push legal immigration changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump embraced legislation Wednesday that would dramatically reduce legal immigration and shift the nation toward a system that prioritizes merit and skills over family ties.

Trump joined with Republican Sens. David Perdue of Georgia and Tom Cotton of Arkansas to promote the bill, which has so far gained little traction in the Senate.

"This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and puts America first," Trump said during an event in the White House's Roosevelt Room.

It was the latest example of the president championing an issue that animated the core voters of his 2016 campaign, following decisions to pull out of the Paris climate treaty and ban transgender people from the military.

Perdue and Cotton's legislation would replace the current process for obtaining legal permanent residency, or green cards, creating a skills-based point system for employment visas. The bill would also eliminate the preference for U.S. residents' extended and adult family members, while maintaining priority for their spouses and minor children.

Overall, immigration would be slashed 41 percent in the legislation's first year and 50 percent in its 10th, according to projection models cited by the bill's sponsors. The bill would also aim to slash the number of refugees in half and eliminate a program that provides visas to people from countries with low rates of immigration.

The rollout included a combative press briefing led by Trump policy aide Stephen Miller, who clashed with the media over the plan and accused one reporter of being "cosmopolitan" when he suggested it would only bring in English-speaking people from Britain and Australia.

Thousands show up for jobs at Amazon warehouses in US cities

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP)—Thousands of people showed up Wednesday for a chance to pack and ship products to Amazon customers, as the e-commerce company held a giant job fair at nearly a dozen U.S. warehouses.

Although the wages offered will make it hard for some to make ends meet, many of the candidates were excited by the prospect of health insurance and other benefits, as well as advancement opportunities.

It's common for Amazon to ramp up its shipping center staff in August to prepare for holiday shopping. But the magnitude of its current hiring spree underscores Amazon's growth when traditional retailers are closing stores—and blaming Amazon for a shift to buying goods online.

Amazon said it received "a record-breaking 20,000 applications" and hired thousands of people on the spot, and will hire more in the coming days. That number represented fewer than half of the 50,000 people it had said it planned to hire.

Most of the jobs are full-time positions in packing, sorting and shipping and will count toward Amazon's previously announced goal of adding 100,000 full-time workers by the middle of next year.

The bad news is that more people are likely to lose jobs in stores than get jobs in warehouses, said Anthony Carnevale, director of Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

On the flip side, Amazon's warehouse jobs provide "decent and competitive" wages and could help build skills.

"Interpersonal team work, problem solving, critical thinking, all that stuff goes on in these warehouses," Carnevale said. "They're serious entry-level jobs for a lot of young people, even those who are still making their way through school."

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
AIRPORT MASTER PLANNING and AGIS SURVEY SERVICES
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-009-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Airport Master Planning and AGIS Survey Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. CPA's selection process is intended to be in compliance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14E (or latest publication) entitled "Architectural, Engineering and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects" and in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, August 18, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Capability to perform all or most aspects of the project, such as preliminary design, construction management, bidding services, Airport Layout Plan revisions, environmental evaluations – such as documented category exclusion, financial analysis, preliminary civil design, mechanical and electrical engineering. Demonstrated ability to implement quality control measures, identify problems completely, and implement corrective action promptly in order to meet contract schedule requirements and AIP standards. **(WEIGHT 20)**
2. Key personnel's professional background and successful relevant experience in airport projects comparable to the proposed projects. **(WEIGHT 20)**
3. Demonstrated ability to meet Airport Improvement Program AGIS standards, NGS requirements, Airport Master Plan standards, project schedules or deadlines, and to complete projects without having major cost escalations, overruns, or disputed claims; and demonstrated ability to meet Airport Improvement Program. **(WEIGHT 20)**
4. Quality of projects previously undertaken that are comparable to proposed projects. **(WEIGHT 10)**
5. Familiarity with the project and demonstrated understanding of the projects potential problems and the owner's special concerns. **(WEIGHT 10)**
6. Capability to furnish a qualified and experienced team for all phases of the Airport Master Planning Services and AGIS Project; and knowledgeable of specific issues at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. (WEIGHT 10)
7. Demonstrated skills, knowledge, experience, and capabilities in AGIS; ability to implement an AGIS Obstruction Survey and Airport Airspace Analysis; ability to complete a comprehensive Airport Master Plan Update; ability to complete projects on budget and on time. **(WEIGHT 10)**

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 25, 2017

JOCELYN A. FERRER
P.O. BOX 505235, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL.: (670) 233-1517 / 588-1517

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of Adoption of:	)	FCD-AC-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0354
MA. ROXYLYN FONZY CARL C. FERRER AND FRANCHESCA LOUISE C. FERRER Minor Children	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
BY:	)	
JOCELYN A. FERRER Petitioner	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 2, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2017.

Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOW 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9538

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458
-v-	:	
DONALD C. CAMACHO, Defendant.	:	

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court is this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth here in below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 1, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m.., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The Sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of July, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOW 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9538

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338
-v-	:	
RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants.	:	

ELEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidders, on the terms of conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32. Situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 1, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of July, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO 05-382
-v-	:	
MARIANO S. NAPUTI, Defendant.	:	

FOURTEENTH AMDENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OIS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 1, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of July, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Nation

Trump blasts Russia sanctions bill—but still signs it

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dealt a striking congressional rebuke, Donald Trump grudgingly signed what he called a "seriously flawed" package of sanctions against Russia on Wednesday, bowing for the moment to resistance from both parties to his push for warmer ties with Moscow.

Trump signed the most significant piece of legislation of his presidency with no public event. And he coupled it with a written statement, resentful in tone, that accused Congress of overstepping its constitutional bounds, impeding his ability to negotiate with foreign countries and lacking any ability to strike deals.

"Congress could not even negotiate a health care bill after seven years of talking," he said scornfully of lawmakers' recent failure to repeal "Obamacare" as he and other Republicans have promised for years. "As president, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress."

Still, he said, "despite its problems, I am signing this bill for the sake of national unity."

It was powerful evidence of the roadblock Congress has erected to Trump's efforts to reset relations with Russia at a time when federal investigators are probing Moscow's interference in the U.S. presidential election and possible collusion by the Trump campaign.

AP

In this July 31, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump in the East Room of the White House. Trump signed on Aug. 2, what he called a "seriously flawed" bill imposing new sanctions on Russia, pressured by his Republican Party not to move on his own toward a warmer relationship with Moscow in light of Russian actions.

The legislation is aimed at penalizing Moscow for that interference and for its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, where the Kremlin has backed President Bashar Assad.

The law also imposes new financial sanctions against Iran and North Korea.

Trump said the law will "punish and deter bad behavior" by the governments of Iran and North Korea as well as enhance existing sanctions on Moscow. But he made no secret of his distaste for what the bill does to his ability to govern.

"The bill remains seriously flawed—particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch's authority to negotiate," he said.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly backed the bill, 419-3, and the Senate rapidly followed, 98-2. Those margins guaranteed that Congress would be able to beat back any veto attempt.

Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on the conclusions of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia meddled in the 2016 campaign with the intention of tipping the election in his favor.

He's blasted the federal investigation as a "witch hunt."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called the president's concerns over the bill misplaced.

"Vladimir Putin and his regime must pay a real price for attacking our democracy, violating human rights, occupying Crimea and destabilizing Ukraine," McCain said. "Going forward, I hope the president will be as vocal about Russia's aggressive behavior as he was about his concerns with this legislation."

2 dead after explosion at Minneapolis school

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A second body was found in the rubble of a collapsed school building in Minneapolis after an explosion killed a school employee and injured several others, fire officials said Wednesday night.

City Fire Chief John Fruetel said the body was recovered around 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Minnehaha Academy. Fruetel said the medical examiner's office is working to notify relatives.

The blast occurred in a utility as students were playing soccer and basketball at the private Christian school, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, according to fire and school officials.

Contractors were working on one of the campus' buildings at the time of the blast, which investigators believe was caused by a natural gas explosion, said Assistant Minneapolis Fire Chief Bryan Tyner.

The explosion killed Ruth Berg, a receptionist for 17 years at the school who "welcomed everyone with a smile," the school said in a statement.

John Carlson, a part-time janitor known for giving Dilly Bars to students, was reported missing. The 81-year-old attended the school as a child, sent his own children there, and was like a grandfather figure to students, school officials said.

At a news conference Wednesday night, Fruetel did not specify whether Carlson's body was the one located.

Four people remained hospitalized late Wednesday, including one in critical condition, at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, according to the hospital. Their names haven't been released.

Dr. Jim Miner, the hospital's chief of emergency medicine, said victims treated from the blast suffered injuries ranging from head injuries and broken bones to cuts from debris.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-018

Supply and Delivery of Water and Wastewater Annual Materials

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-17-018, Supply & Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials",*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 06, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and

Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Prospective Bidders must comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Geoffrey Ada, CUC Water-Wastewater, Inventory Technician – via email address geoffrey.ada@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **174 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-038, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 29, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 18, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Asia

N. Korean missile tests spook neighbors, but 'what to do?'

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP)—North Korea's flurry of missile launches—20 of them just in the past year—are a new and alarming fact of life for Japan and its other neighbors.

But Pyongyang's recent demonstrations of its capacity to launch intercontinental ballistic missiles, while worrying, are drawing shrugs from many in the region who reckon there's not much anyone can do about them.

"We have no idea when and where (a missile) would strike. Honestly, I don't think there is any way to prepare for it," Akira Fukatsu, a 65-year-old retiree, said as he sat drinking a beer on a bench in a park overlooking a U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. "We're simply unlucky if one strikes here."

Many Japanese, South Koreans and Chinese appear to share that sense of resignation over North Korea's apparent newfound capacity to launch missiles capable of reaching much of the continental United States.

The July 4 firing of a Hwasong-14 ICBM, its first test, and another last weekend suggest that major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago are within range of North Korean weapons. Such missiles could be armed with nuclear, biological or chemical warheads, although experts say North Korea hasn't mastered miniaturizing them and might not have the technology to ensure a warhead would survive re-entry into the atmosphere from space or even hit an intended target.

Attitudes in Japan, South Korea and China toward the threat vary, but likely reflect a sangfroid partly born of living with the legacy of the Cold War and ever present risks of huge earthquakes and other natural disasters.

AP

In this Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017, photo, members of an anti-nuclear pacifist citizens' group protest outside Yokosuka-chuo Station in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo.

JAPAN

Many Japanese have mixed feelings about the latest developments, viewing them as a sign that by focusing on ICBM development, North Korea's aggression is directed toward the U.S. rather than Japan, even if test launches have been splashing down off Japan's coast.

"Japan was within range of North Korean missiles even before their range extended recently," said Tetsuharu Nagashima, an official in charge of emergency response in Yokosuka, which is home to some of the 50,000 American troops stationed in U.S. ally Japan, as well as a Japanese naval base.

Instructions on the local government website tell people to take refuge in strong buildings or underground shopping arcades in case of attack, and to hit the ground and cover their heads if no such shelter is nearby.

Unlike some communities that have held drills and drawn up contingency plans, Nagashima said Yokosuka had no plan to conduct evacuation drills.

Misaki Honna, the mother of a 10-month-old girl, said suggestions that Yokosuka might be targeted because of the U.S. and Japanese military presence were troubling.

"But even if we flee, we wouldn't know where to go. If a missile strikes, there's almost nothing you can do about it," she said.

Eiko Miyauchi, 83, endured U.S. fire-bombings during World War II. As a child, she was evacuated from the coast and took shelter in an underground bunker as bombs rained down.

"I lived through the war, and I can't imagine anything being as scary as that one," she said.

SOUTH KOREA

Living just across the Demilitarized Zone from North Korea, South Koreans are famously laid back about its displays of military might.

But while life continues as usual and there's no visible panic on the streets, at least some South Koreans are starting to question whether North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles may have become bigger problems than anyone wants to admit.

"South Koreans have been too relaxed," said Yang Seung-jun, noting that missile launches show North Korea could attack the South at any time. "It's our choice to laugh it off and say 'North Korea can't do that,' or the 'United Nations will sanction them'... But war never happens when we expect it to," he said.

Some South Koreans who spoke to The Associated Press in the capital Seoul expressed frustration over decades of failed efforts by Seoul and Washington to dissuade Pyongyang from pursuing its nuclear ambitions.

Park Sun-hee, the mother of three, the youngest an 8-year-old boy, said she doesn't fret over every missile launch. It's obviously difficult to be in perpetual panic over the same bellicose neighbor who has been there for decades, especially while living in one of Asia's most competitive societies.

Study: Just going outdoors could become deadly in South Asia

NEW DELHI (AP)—Venturing outdoors may become deadly across wide swaths of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh by the end of the century as climate change drives heat and humidity to new extremes, according to a new study.

These conditions could affect up to a third of the people living throughout the Indo-Gangetic Plain unless the global community ramps up efforts to rein in climate-warming carbon emissions. Today, that vast region is home to some 1.5 billion people.

"The most intense hazard from extreme future heat waves is concentrated around the densely populated agricultural regions of the Ganges and Indus river basins," wrote the authors of the study, led by former MIT research scientist Eun-Soon Im, now an assistant professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

While most climate studies have been based on temperature projections alone, this one—published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances—also considers humidity as well as the body's ability to cool down in response.

Those three factors together make up what is called a "wet-bulb temperature," which is the air temperature taken when a wet cloth is wrapped around the thermometer. It is always lower than the dry-bulb temperature—how much so depends on the humidity. It can help estimate how easy it is for water to evaporate.

It can also offer a gauge for where climate change might become dangerous.

Scientists say humans can survive a wet-bulb temperature of up to about 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit), beyond which the human body has difficulty sweating to cool down, or sweat doesn't evaporate, leading to heat stroke and ultimately death within just a few hours—even in shaded, ventilated conditions.

So far, wet bulb temperatures have rarely exceeded 31 C (88-90 degrees F), a level that is already considered extremely hazardous.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US moves to have North Korea suspended from Asia forum

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A senior U.S. official says Washington will seek talks on how North Korea can be suspended from Asia's biggest security forum as part of a broader effort to isolate Pyongyang diplomatically and force it to end its missile tests and abandon its nuclear weapons program. Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton told reporters in Washington on Wednesday that North Korea's actions have violated the conflict-prevention aims of the ASEAN Regional Forum, which groups the United States and North Korea with 25 other countries. Two Filipino officials tell The Associated Press that U.S. officials have discussed such a prospect with Philippine officials, who told them it may be better to keep North Korea in the forum, where it can be persuaded to stop provocations through dialogue.

Indonesia deports Chinese, Taiwanese scam suspects to China

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia has deported more than 140 Chinese and Taiwanese suspects to China, where they are wanted for impersonating police and blackmailing businessmen and politicians in a scam said to have earned several hundred million dollars. Immigration office spokesman Agung Sampurno said the 121 Chinese and 22 Taiwanese deported Thursday would face charges in China. He said they were handed over to Chinese officials and flown to China on two aircraft. Indonesian police caught the mostly male suspects in a weekend raid of houses in Jakarta, Surabaya and Bali. Two suffered gunshot wounds to their legs while attempting to escape. National police spokesman Rikwanto has said the scammers operated from Indonesia to avoid being tracked down at home and earned $450 million.

Japan Prime Minister Abe reshuffles Cabinet as support dips

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reshuffled his Cabinet on Thursday, opting for seasoned party veterans to help restore his battered popularity. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, who retained his post, announced the new lineup. Abe's approval ratings have suffered from a spate of scandals over alleged cronyism and other abuses and objections to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's tendency to force unpopular legislation through parliament. The shakeup Thursday reflects Abe's recognition that despite the Liberal Democrats' overwhelming majority in parliament, his own once seemingly invincible position may be imperiled. But plans for the reshuffle were disclosed weeks in advance, and it was not expected to have a major impact on the foreign policy or economy of America's biggest ally in Asia.

World

Venezuela president disputes vote tampering allegation

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's president defiantly dismissed allegations that official turnout figures for the election of an all-powerful constituent assembly were manipulated, accusing the international software firm behind the claim of bowing to U.S. pressure to cast doubt over a body that he hopes will entrench an even more staunchly socialist state.

In his first meeting with assembly delegates Wednesday night, President Nicolas Maduro not only stood by the official count of 8 million-plus votes cast in Sunday's divisive election, but proclaimed that an additional 2 million people would have voted if they hadn't been blocked by anti-government protesters.

Maduro also announced a one-day delay in the assembly's installation, saying it would convene on Friday instead of Thursday as planned, in order to "organize it well in peace and tranquility."

The body is empowered to rewrite Venezuela's constitution and Maduro vows he will use it to target his opponents and solidify the socialist system installed by the late President Hugo Chavez. Maduro called the vote in May after weeks of protests fueled by widespread anger over food shortages, triple-digit inflation and high crime—unrest that continues and has caused at least 125 deaths.

The head of voting technology company Smartmatic said earlier Wednesday that the National Electoral Council's voter turnout number was off by at least 1 million, further darkening uncertainty over the veracity over the results. Independent analysts and opposition leaders have contended that the actual participation level was much lower.

With the opposition boycotting the election, virtually all the candidates were supporters of Maduro's ruling socialist party, so turnout was watched as one of the only indicators of how much popular support there is for the constituent assembly.

"That stupid guy, the president of Smartmatic, pressured to the neck by the gringos and the Brits, said there were 7.5 million," Maduro said in televised remarks. "I think there were 10 million Venezuelans who went out."

Maduro provided no evidence to support his claim, but his remarks were received with resounding applause from about 500 people elected to the assembly.

Antonio Mugica, CEO of Smartmatic, told reporters in London that results recorded by the company's systems and those reported by the National Electoral Council show "without any doubt" that the official turnout figure was tampered with. But he did not specify whether his company's figures showed 1 million fewer, or 1 million more, voters.

The international software company has provided voting technology in Venezuela since 2004.

"Even in moments of deep political conflict and division we have been satisfied with the voting process and the count has been completely accurate" previously in Venezuela, Mugica said. "It is, therefore, with the deepest regret that we have to report that the turnout figures on Sunday, 30 July, for the constituent assembly in Venezuela were tampered with."

Tibisay Lucena, the head of the National Electoral Council, also dismissed Smartmatic's claim. She called it an "opinion" of a company that played only a secondary role in the election and had no access to complete data.

Brazil's president dodges bribery charge, but risks remain

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—With his job on the line, President Michel Temer eked out a victory in a congressional vote over a bribery charge against him that has fueled angst and anger across Latin America's largest nation.

But there are more legal woes ahead and clear chinks in his governing coalition, so Temer will have little time to celebrate.

Members of Congress' lower house, the Chamber of Deputies, voted 263-227 Wednesday night against suspending the president and sending him for trial before Brazil's highest court.

The result effectively suspended the bribery charge, which was filed by Attorney General Ricardo Janot in June. However, Janot is expected to charge Temer with obstruction of justice by the end of this month, which would prompt another vote that even Temer's most stalwart supporters would rather not have to go through as elections loom next year.

In a troubling sign for Temer, the 263 votes cast in support of him fell far short of the crucial 342, or two-thirds of the 513-member body, that he needs to pass an overhaul of the pension system. It is an unpopular proposal supported by the business class, which has helped keep an otherwise deeply unpopular leader in power.

"This is far from over," said Rafael Salies, a risk consultant with the Rio de Janeiro-based Southern Pulse. "August may still have many surprises in store for him."

The vote on the bribery charge came after a full day of procedural wrangling by the opposition, maneuvers intended to stall and force legislators to vote in the evening, when many Brazilians were home and able to watch the proceedings being broadcast live. The moves may have worked.

While Temer's opponents made impassioned speeches about the need for him to go, many supporters said nothing beyond the minimum to procedurally cast their vote. The measure was before the chamber because by Brazilian law a sitting president cannot be tried without the approval of the lower house, which is considered the conduit for the voice of the people.

Throughout the day, there was shouting and even periodic pushing between lawmakers.

Qatar and Italy sign a nearly $6B deal for naval vessels

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar on Wednesday signed a 5 billion euro ($5.9 billion) deal to purchase seven naval vessels from Italy, a reminder of the small Gulf state's purchasing power despite a blockade from neighboring countries.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani announced the defense deal at a joint news conference in Doha with Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano. They did not provide more details on the deal, saying only that it underscored the countries' ongoing defense cooperation.

Qatar, which is the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter, and other energy rich Gulf Arab states are among the world's biggest spenders on military equipment. The deals signed over the years with the U.S. and European allies have helped cement bilateral ties, but have also made the diplomatic fallout around Qatar all the more politically sensitive. Qatar also hosts the hub for U.S.-led operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The dispute erupted in early June when the four countries of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties and transport links with Qatar. Saudi Arabia also sealed shut Qatar's only land border, impacting a significant source of food imports, and barred it from using its airspace, which has forced Qatar's flagship carrier to take longer routes over Iran.

The crisis has prompted a flurry of international visits and meetings to try and resolve the crisis.

Earlier this week, the quartet said they would be open to dialogue with Qatar if it accepts their demands to change its policies in the region first. They also insisted that Qatar comply with a sweeping list of 13 demands as well as six broader principles that center around cracking down on terrorism financing.

In remarks at the news conference Wednesday, Al Thani insisted that any talks respect Qatar's sovereignty and said his country has never put forth conditions for dialogue. He also appeared to dismiss the quartet's latest comments that Qatar comply with their demands.

"We are not paying attention to decisions that don't produce anything new," he said. "Every day brings something that contradicts the other so Qatar is not going to tire itself staying abreast on what (the quartet) see as solutions to resolving the crisis."

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of August 04, 2017

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Li Yong Hong Corporation dba Cola Tour	07/28/2017 SLRm-2017-X-080	Marine Sports Snorkeling Tour Operation	San Antonio, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
2. Aquatic Marine Co., dba Amigo Aquatic Sports	07/12/2017 SS/LRm-99-X-15	Marine Sports Jet Ski Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 07/27/2017
3. Aqua Del Rey Saipan, Inc.	07/21/2017 SLRm-2000-X-101	Marine Sports Scuba Dive Tour Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal - Under Review
4. Aqua Blue Saipan Corporation	07/24/2017 SLRm-2013-X-030	Marine Sports Scuba Dive Tour Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved- 7/10/2017
5. Advance Marine Saipan Corporation	07/25/2017 SLRm-94-X-88	Marine Sports Parasailing Operation	Mañagaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved- 8/01/2017
6. The Rose Empire Corp. dba Fly Boy	07/26/2017 SLRm-2009-X-003	Marine Sports Parasailing Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved- 8/01/2017
7. Li Yong Hong Corporation	07/28/2017 SLRm-2017-X-080	Marine Sports Snorkeling Tour Operation	San Antonio, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
8. Commonwealth Marine Sports Leisure Corporation	08/01/2017 SLRm-99-X-064	Marine Sports Scuba Dive Tour Operation	All Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal- Under Review
9. BSEA, Inc. dba BSEA Sun Sports	8/01/2017 SLRm-93-X-106	Marine Sports Parasailing Operation	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
10. Mark Arnold Santos dba Macs Marine	8/02/2017 SLRm-2007-X-092	Marine Sports Banana Boat Operation	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal- Under Review
11. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel	7/31/2017 SMS-2017-X-081	Major Siting Name Change	San Roque, Saipan	Transfer of Interest	Under Review

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations NMIAC requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major siting's. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Great white chomps on researcher's underwater video camera

CHATHAM, Mass. (AP)—The top shark scientist in Massachusetts has shot hundreds of great white shark videos, but for the first time one has tried to take a bite of his camera. Greg Skomal, a researcher with the Massachusetts Division of Marine and Fisheries, was tagging great whites with a crew from the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy on Monday off Cape Cod when a shark chomped on his GoPro. The video posted on the agency's Facebook page shows the shark approaching the camera attached to a pole, biting down for about a second and providing a close-up of the inside of its mouth. Skomal told New England Cable News the exploratory bite was "unusual behavior" and the 11-foot female shark easily could have destroyed the camera.

Police solve 'mystery' of beheaded statue in Austrian town

VIENNA (AP)—Police in Austria thought vandals were responsible after a statue in a town square was beheaded. Their investigations came to an abrupt end Wednesday when they found out that the statue's creator was the culprit. Police in the town of Neusiedl am See said the sculptor was acting on the request of a local official, who thought the head of Saint Rosalia was weathered and needed restoring. But other officials and the townsfolk were not informed, and a resident soon went to police to report the "crime." The artist cleared up the situation after he read about the misunderstanding. A police statement said: "The mystery is solved."

Priests mistaken for bachelor party turned away by UK pub

LONDON (AP)—A British pub has apologized for turning away a group of trainee priests after mistaking them for rowdy bachelor-party revelers in costume. The Archdiocese of Cardiff said Tuesday that seven Roman Catholic seminarians went to the City Arms in Cardiff, Wales, last week to celebrate the ordination of one of the group. Father Michael Doyle said the clerics were turned away by a doorman, who told them "sorry gents, we have a policy of no fancy dress and no stag dos." Doyle said the group was reprieved when a bar manager realized the clergyman were real. They were allowed in and given a round of beer on the house. Assistant manager Matt Morgan said "thankfully they were all great sports and saw the funny side of the situation."

Wax museum seeks Tom Brady's help to improve 'creepy' statue

BOSTON (AP)—A new wax museum is asking New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady for help to improve a wax replica of him that has been ridiculed online. The Dreamland Wax Museum in Boston features a statue of Brady that has drawn criticism from many people who say it looks "creepy" and doesn't resemble him. A Facebook post from the museum on Wednesday acknowledges the figure isn't perfect because it's based on a photo instead of Brady's actual measurements. The museum has invited Brady to "come by and sit in for a measurement session." It museum says getting it perfect is its top priority.

Police: Goat missing after walking off 'goatscaping' job

WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—Police in Rhode Island are asking people to be on the lookout for a goat that wandered off a landscaping job. Warwick police say the goat, which goes by the names Sammy and Frank, turned up missing during a post-work head count on Tuesday. He is owned by The Goatscaping Company, based in Plympton, Massachusetts, which offers the ruminants as an alternative to herbicides in the management of vegetation. Police say he has one curly horn and is small, brown and generally "funny looking." Anyone who spots a goat roaming in the Warwick Neck area, or anywhere else in Warwick, is asked to call police.

Pistol-packing bride arrested for pointing gun at groom

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (AP)—A Tennessee bride was arrested hours after saying "I do" when authorities say she pointed a gun at her groom. Murfreesboro police Sgt. Kyle Evans told WTVF-TV on Monday that 25-year-old Kate Elizabeth Prichard was still in her wedding dress when she was arrested on an aggravated domestic assault charge. Evans says officers responded to a report of Prichard and her husband arguing at a Clarion Inn motel a few hours after they were married. Police say witnesses reported that Prichard pulled a 9 mm pistol out of her dress, pointed it at her husband's head and pulled the trigger. The gun wasn't loaded. Police say Prichard then loaded a round in the chamber and fired a shot in the air.

German court rules against 'Spaghetti Monster church'

BERLIN (AP)—A German court has ruled that local authorities are entitled to prevent a group calling itself the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster from advertising its "noodle Masses" at the entrance to an eastern town. It's standard practice in Germany for small signs at the entrance to towns to announce there's a Lutheran or Catholic church and detail when it holds services. The "Spaghetti Monster" group, an organization that criticizes religion as intolerant, wanted permission to do the same in Templin, northeast of Berlin. News agency dpa reported that the Brandenburg state court ruled Wednesday the group can't claim the rights of a religious or philosophical community. Judges said its criticism of others' beliefs doesn't constitute a philosophy. The group says that it's a humanist organization and plans to appeal.

Driver won't leave burning car, tells police he's a mechanic

PELHAM, N.H. (AP)—New Hampshire police say they were forced to drag a driver out of his burning car after it crashed into a tree and he refused to leave, telling them he was a mechanic. Police say a witness reported the crash in Pelham on Monday night and said the driver didn't want help from police or firefighters. When they arrived, 53-year-old Michael Hines, of Derry, refused to get out of the car. Police say they removed him but he tried to get back in as the fire spread and the tires exploded. Police dragged him out. Hines wasn't hurt. He was charged with driving under the influence and possession of cocaine.

Science & Technology

Science Matters
A mission to explore the eighth continent
Surrounding New Zealand lies Zealandia, a mass of Earth's crust about half the size of Australia. A new ocean drilling expedition may yield clues to its origin and climate history.
JOIDES Resolution, one of the world's most sophisticated scientific drillships
Europe
Asia
Africa
North America
Pacific Ocean
South America
Australia
ZEALANDIA
New Zealand
Antarctica
Boundaries of Earth's tectonic plates
Zealandia: A sunken slab of rock
Area: 1,900 sq mi. (4,900 sq km), 94% submerged
Sea is shallower than surrounding ocean
Formerly part of the supercontinent Gondwana; separated in the late Cretaceous (Age of Dinosaurs)
A major feature of Zealandia is the fault line along its center, where two plates move past each other
Australian Plate
North Island
ALPINE FAULT
NEW ZEALAND
South Island
Pacific Plate
200 miles
200 km
Like other continents, Zealandia reaches out past the seashore to a shelf
Continental edge of Zealandia
Drillship takes rock samples like these from below the sea floor
Geologists can deduce the age of the rock and the temperature when it was deposited
Source: International Ocean Discovery Program; Nick Mortimer of GNS Science (New Zealand)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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TECH Q&A

Enabling an iPhone to delete email

By Steve Alexander
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: On my iPhone, my Outlook.com email account won't allow me to send messages to the trash. I get an error report that says "Unable to move message. The message could not be moved to the mailbox Trash." How can I fix this problem?—Linda Reed, Green Valley, Ariz.

A: This is a common problem that can be resolved by changing a few settings.

What's the issue? Your phone is synchronized with your email provider's mail server. That means that any email action you take on the iPhone is being duplicated on the server.

But this synchronization only works if your iPhone plays by the email server's rules. In order to maintain the relationship, your phone must delete email messages to a Trash folder located on Outlook.com's mail server.

However, your phone is instead trying to delete email messages by sending them to the iPhone's own Trash folder. As a result, the email doesn't get deleted and you get an error message.

This can be fixed by going to the iPhone's settings, and clicking on "mail" and then "accounts." Click on "Outlook.com" and then on "account" (your email address appears beside it.) Then click on "advanced" and look at the section called "mailbox behaviors." Click on "deleted mailbox," and you will see a list of options for where deleted mail should go.

My guess is that your phone has a checkmark beside "Trash" under the heading "on my phone." You need to change that by going to following section, called "on the server," and click "Trash" there. A checkmark should to appear beside that option.

Move backward through the menus until you get to the "account" page, where you should click "done" in the upper right-hand corner. Then, move back in the menus until "settings," and close the settings app.

While this settings change solves the problem for most people, there are other potential fixes at tinyurl.com/yatbeaz3. They include disabling and re-enabling your phone's email account, or deleting your email account from the phone and setting it up again.

Q: I use Windows 10, and have found that Microsoft's new Edge browser seems to take over the opening of all the Adobe PDF document files that arrive in my email. As a result, I can't open those files with Adobe software, which means I can't use Adobe features such as zoom or text highlighting. Is there a way to make Edge quit taking over PDF files?—Bob Somers, Minnetonka, Minn.

A: Microsoft's Edge browser contains its own PDF-reading software, and does not support the software "plug-in" that enables other browsers to open PDFs with Adobe. So you will need to switch to a different browser if you want to take advantage of Adobe's features.

Microsoft's internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox (see tinyurl.com/bsxs3kt) are two options.

The Google Chrome browser (see tinyurl.com/qbud93e) can use Adobe software. But as a result of a 2015 redesign of the browser, it won't use Adobe by default. To make Chrome automatically open PDF documents with Adobe, make a simple change in Chrome's settings (see tinyurl.com/8xuo2c6).

Life & Style

AP
Britain's Prince Philip, right, in his role as Captain General of the Royal Marines, talks to troops as he attends a Parade on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, in central London, Wednesday Aug. 2, 2017.

Prince Philip, 96, bids adieu with final solo official duty

LONDON (AP)—For over 65 years, he has been the unwavering presence alongside Britain's longest-serving monarch, the consummate consort and royal representative.

On Wednesday Prince Philip, 96, made his 22,219th—and final—solo public engagement, braving heavy rain to meet Royal Marines at Buckingham Palace.

The royal appeared in good spirits, waving to cheering crowds and joking with the soldiers, who have completed a 1,664-mile (2,678-kilometer) trek to raise money for charity.

"You all should be locked up," he quipped, making the soldiers laugh.

Philip announced he was stepping down from public duties in May. The royal, known for his sense of humor and gaffes, recently joked about his big retirement day, telling celebrity chef Prue Leith: "I'm discovering what it's like to be on your last legs."

Also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, he will still appear at Queen Elizabeth II's side—from time to time—as the 91-year-old monarch soldiers on.

Philip is patron, president or a member of over 780 organizations, with which he will continue to be associated—but he won't play an active role by attending engagements. The queen supported the decision.

Wednesday's event marks a major landmark for the man born Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark in Corfu on June 10, 1921, to Princess Alice of Battenberg and Prince Andrew of Greece. Amid the upheaval of the military coup that overthrew his uncle, King Constantine, in 1922, the family fled.

King George V, the queen's grandfather, sent a Royal Navy cruiser to evacuate Philip's family and he was whisked to safety in a cot made from an orange box. Later, he rarely saw his parents and went to school in Germany and Britain.

Philip has had a long association with the military and had once had promising military career. He joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1939 and served during World War II, winning mention in dispatches for service aboard the battleship HMS Valiant at Cape Matapan, on Greece's Peloponnesian peninsula. He rose to the level of commander.

Two years after the war ended, Philip married the future queen at Westminster Abbey when she was 21 and he was 26. He renounced his Greek title and King George VI made him the Duke of Edinburgh. His career came to an abrupt end with George's death in 1952. At the queen's coronation in 1953, Philip swore to be his wife's "liege man of life and limb." He settled into a life supporting Elizabeth in her role as queen and they had four children—Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.

Philip has given 5,496 speeches, written 14 books and gone on 637 solo visits overseas.

He's championed environmental and conservation issues, and has interests in science, engineering and industry. An accomplished sportsman, he played polo regularly until 1971. He earned his RAF wings in 1953, his helicopter wings in 1956 and his private pilot's license in 1959.

All that activity has led to overall good health. But Philip has been admitted to the hospital on a number of occasions in the last few years for abdominal surgery, bladder infections and a blocked coronary artery.

Many of his health issues are related to sports. He has arthritis in his right wrist and broke a bone in his ankle from playing polo. He developed a rheumatic condition of the tendon in the hand after a taking a fall in polo.

He takes the stairs rather than elevators and can still fit into the uniform he wore for his wedding. He was only seen wearing hearing aids for the first time at a palace reception in 2014 at the age of 93.

The palace says his health wasn't behind the retirement decision.

Philip, who enjoys a slightly wicked turn of phrase, has poked fun at himself and his advancing years. In a letter to The Oldie magazine in 2011, he said he appreciated being named "Consort of the Year."

"There is nothing like it for morale to be reminded that the years are passing—ever more quickly—and that bits are beginning to drop off the ancient frame," he wrote. "But it is nice to be remembered at all."

The 'Crazy Ex Girlfriend' gets a diagnosis in season 3

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—She's obsessive and self-absorbed, but what's really going on with Rachel Bloom's "Crazy Ex Girlfriend" character? We'll find out in the show's third season.

Bloom says the character will be medically diagnosed in an upcoming episode. She spoke Wednesday following a panel for the show as part of the Television Critics Association.

On "Crazy Ex Girlfriend," Bloom plays Rebecca Bunch, an attorney who abruptly quits her high-powered New York job and moves to California to follow a teenage love from summer camp who she believes she still has a connection with.

Bloom says a diagnosis is something they've always wanted to explore and that it will be interesting to see how it's dealt with.

"We talked to a lot of therapists and yes, a diagnosis is important but what they really care about is treatment," said Bloom.

She also hinted that the reveal will make sense based on Rebecca's behavior.

"You'll see there were things that we unwittingly did over the past three seasons that actually fit into a certain diagnosis that we kind of didn't realize we were doing," said Bloom.

Ultimately she hopes the storyline will inspire others to seek help or treatment if they feel they need it.

"The moment that I got a good psychiatrist and went on Prozac and started meditating was a real turning point for me," said Bloom.

"Crazy Ex Girlfriend" returns for its third season Oct. 13 on The CW.

James Wolk balances daddy duty with saving humanity on 'Zoo'

NEW YORK (AP)—In real life, actor James Wolk is a new dad enjoying fatherhood and family time, but on the CBS summer drama "Zoo," he's trying to save the human race from mutant animal hybrids.

"I'm embracing it," the 32-year-old actor said of adjusting to life after the birth of his son. "I'm also in love with him. You just figure it out."

"Zoo," now in its third season, has jumped 10 years to 2027. A cure to tame the wild animals attacking humans in the first two seasons has been found, but it has sterilized the human race.

And there are genetically modified, razor-backed hybrids wreaking havoc on the West Coast.

Wolk's character, Jackson, a zoologist, is trying to help people escape the area.

He talked about "Zoo" and his family life in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Associated Press: How has "Zoo" separated itself from the James Patterson novel that the series is based on?

Wolk: The story of 'Zoo' that James Patterson wrote, we're so beyond that because he wrote a book and we're three seasons in, so they're just creating a new story all the time. And what's happening in season three is there's this fertility problem—no one can have a baby or has had a baby in 10 years. And my character, Jackson, is on the West Coast of the United States where these hybrid animals, you know, these kind of 'Jurassic Park' lab-made creatures, have taken over and the West Coast of the United States is really like it's kind of apocalyptic. There's no civilization, people are just in hiding, so I'm helping these people almost like refugees get to these safe zones.

AP: How has your character changed since season one?

Wolk: When you meet Jackson in season three, he isn't really that wide-eyed boy we met in season one, he's more of a man, he's a little bit more hardened by life, and that was really fun to play, too; I mean that was the cool thing about the 10-year reset. I think the writers just said, 'OK, what are the best parts of the show, what are the best parts of these characters, let's just throw that all together and use the 10-year jump as an excuse to make it as big it can be,' so Jackson has been really fun to play this year.

AP: There are memes out there of your "Mad Men" character, Bob Benson. Have you seen them?

Wolk: My friends sent that to me. I think that's their favorite pastime, the guys I grew up with, is to send ridiculous memes of myself to me, but the Bob Benson one carving a turkey is a good one.

AP: Your wife isn't in entertainment. Do you like having that break from Hollywood in your home life?

Wolk: I love the entertainment business but also love having time to get away from it as well. It is nice having my partner in crime, my wife, not of that world, and so we can just easily talk about other stuff and shift focus to other things.

AP: Is your wife impressed by Hollywood?

Wolk: She has a healthy relationship with this world. She's excited for me. She's happy for me, but she's not in awe of it.

Taylor Sheridan finds another frontier in 'Wind River'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Sheridan has a knack for finding and telling stories about parts of the American frontier that Hollywood doesn't dare touch. The Texas native brought audiences to the U.S.-Mexico border in "Sicario" and to shattered West Texas in "Hell or High Water" through his visceral screenplays. Now in "Wind River," Sheridan explores cruelty at the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming.

The murder of a young girl sets the story in motion and brings a novice FBI agent Jane (Elizabeth Olsen) to the snowy terrain. She enlists the help of a local game tracker Cory (Jeremy Renner), who is all too familiar with the circumstances.

Sheridan spoke to The Associated Press about the film, which is out in limited release on Friday, and how "Wind River" continues his exploration of prescient themes through a thrilling genre lens.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: You've referred to "Wind River" as a part of a trilogy with "Sicario" and "Hell or High Water." Can you elaborate?

SHERIDAN: The macro is it is an exploration of the modern American frontier and how much has changed and how much hasn't changed and the consequences of assimilation that still reverberate today.

AP: Why did you want to direct this one?

SHERIDAN: It was the only way I could guarantee that the story was told the way I wanted it told. I didn't trust that another filmmaker would come in and see this world the way I saw it, or I didn't know one.

AP: Why is it important to you to explore these lost frontiers?

SHERIDAN: As Americans, we are wildly ignorant of our own nation. There are people in Los Angeles who have never been to the West. Same with New York. And most people haven't been to Los Angeles and New York. And we watch the news and each of these regions is presented in one way and that way is terrifying to the people who are from the other regions. I think that understanding our country fully means understanding all the people in it and realizing we're just not that different.

AP: But there are also stark differences in the way people live.

SHERIDAN: There needs to be a sense of community and real respect for others in a city. There needs to be that anywhere, but in a city where everyone is right on top of each other there are rules that don't apply and won't work in rural American. Here if you get in trouble you call the police and they're there in 90 seconds. You call the police where I live in Wyoming, which I've had to do, they're like, "Can you hang on? The closest guy is 22 minutes away." The hospital is 40 minutes away. People can complain about Planned Parenthood or not Planned Parenthood but it doesn't really matter because it doesn't exist in my county. You get out to rural America and that's where the last road is fixed. The last drip of money gets there last, it comes here first. That's one of the reasons people don't ever talk about why the mistrust of government exists in rural America. Their idea of government is a bill from the tax assessor, or being told why there is a fracking well next door. One of the great gifts of cinema is you can show a world people don't know about and learn about it and not judge it.

Sheridan

AP: "Hell or High Water" came at an interesting time around the election. Why do you think it resonated at that moment?

SHERIDAN: I made a story about people who no one makes movies about. And it's a group of individuals who are struggling just like everyone else and became a very convenient political bullseye. I think that the great duping of the American public that we're all so different in our ideology actually forces the gulf between the sides, when the opposite is true at the end of the day. People are generally compassionate and generally empathetic and there is always room for compromise, it's just not politically advantageous to the people in office.

AP: Are you outwardly political?

SHERIDAN: No. There are things on both sides of the aisle that I'm a strong supporter of, you know what I mean? I want as little government in my life as possible and yet everyone should be free to express themselves in whatever way they choose. I don't believe there is actually a political party in America that exists that accurately represents the way most Americans feel. I think we have two antiquated parties.

AP: Finally, is there anything you can say about the "Sicario" sequel, "Soldado"?

SHERIDAN: This one will feel oddly prophetic. People are going to think I'm really smart. I'm not, I just imagined something insane and then a year later the insane happened.

Crowd-funded animated short about gay love goes viral

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An animated short film about an adolescent gay couple has gone viral, roughly 8 million views on YouTube in just two days.

"In a Heartbeat" follows an elementary school boy addressing his sexuality after falling in love with a male classmate. Filmmakers Beth David and Esteban Bravo released the film Monday online.

The short quickly began trending, gaining a particular following amongst LGBT advocates including singer Adam Lambert and actor Ashton Kutcher. The Human Rights Campaign posted the video on Twitter Tuesday afternoon and praised the film for its relatability.

Hayley Miller, the organization's senior digital media manager, said the film is a testament to saying, "Love is love."

"We've all had a crush or a broken heart," Miller wrote in an email. "Using no words, it validates this young boy's experience and the way all LGBTQ youth should be embraced."

The filmmakers launched a Kickstarter campaign in November 2016 to fund the project, reaching the initial goal of $3,000 in three hours. A total of $14,000 was raised.

"In a Heartbeat" is a semi-finalist for best animated domestic film at the 2017 Student Academy Awards. The filmmakers produced the short at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida as their senior thesis. They did not respond to online messages seeking an interview.

AP

This image released by Ringling College of Art and Design shows a scene from the animated short, "In a Heartbeat," by filmmakers Beth David and Esteban Bravo. David and Bravo released the film online Monday where it quickly began trending on Twitter.

Paul Dergarabedian, comScore senior media analyst, said it's not surprising the film found success through the crowd-funding website. Calling the short a picture-perfect scenario, he said the most successful Kickstarter campaigns go viral.

"It shows the power of utilizing social media as a way to provide resources to realize people's creative vision," he said.

Research shows young LGBT characters and storylines are way underrepresented in both short and feature length films.

In 2016, only three out of 4,544 speaking characters in the top 100 grossing films were LGBT teenagers or younger, according to a report released Monday.

There was just one out of 4,370 in 2015, according to data compiled by the Media, Diversity, & Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Project administrator Marc Choueiti said younger LGBT characters are also rarely seen in short films.

In a separate study, the researchers evaluated films screening at Lunafest, a national short film festival. They found that between 2002 and 2015, 115 short films had four characters who identified themselves as LGBT teenagers.

Lead researcher Stacy L. Smith said shorts often showcase different worldviews than in top grossing full-length features.

Smith said "In A Heartbeat" is an outlier along with "The Imitation Game," ''Moonlight" and the Freeform show "The Fosters" in showcasing experiences of LGBT youth.

"People aren't seeing rich, complex and compelling LGBT youth," she said. "The short should be applauded for representing the world we live in."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

1980s rapper Kidd Creole arrested in fatal stabbing

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the founding members of the 1980s hip hop group Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five was arrested in New York in connection with the fatal stabbing of a homeless man, police said. Nathaniel Glover, 57, also known as The Kidd Creole, was arrested Wednesday night on murder charges. Information on his lawyer wasn't immediately available. The stabbing happened in midtown Manhattan shortly before midnight on Monday. Police said the 55-year-old victim was found with multiple stab wounds to his torso. It's not clear what sparked the stabbing. Police described the victim, who lived in a shelter, as a level 2 sex offender. His identity has not yet been released. Video shows a handcuffed Glover, his gray hair pulled back into a tightly-wound pony tail, being escorted out of a police precinct Wednesday night. Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five is best known for their 1982 rap song, "The Message." The group was formed in the late 1970s in the Bronx. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007, the first rap act to be inducted into the hall.

A 'Dynasty' reboot

Money! Power! Glamour! Catfights! The CW's reboot of "Dynasty" will have much in common with the classic 1980s original. But the new "Dynasty" aims to "kick it up a notch," says Elizabeth Gillies, who plays Fallon Carrington, daughter of wealthy industrialist Blake Carrington, on the show. Pamela Sue Martin played her in the original series. Gillies told TV critics Wednesday that her character is "as feisty as ever" and that she loves Fallon's strength. She played a strong woman on FX's "Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll." But on that show, her character was rough around the edges, while Fallon is refined. Gillies noted that "Fallon doesn't want to be a rock star. She wants to be CEO." That means trading in "crop tops and lace bras for Gucci and Christian Louboutins," Gillies said. "Dynasty" premieres Oct. 11.

Golden Globes group gives away $2.8 million in show proceeds

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Stan Lee, Patrick Stewart, Dustin Hoffman and a dozen other stars have helped the Hollywood Foreign Press Association present $2.8 million in grants to film schools and arts organizations. Chelsea Handler hosted the group's annual dinner Wednesday where it shares the proceeds from the Golden Globe Awards with various nonprofit organizations. This year's grants include a $2 million endowment for University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts and $200,000 donation to the Committee to Protect Journalists, which Meryl Streep mentioned in her Golden Globes acceptance speech earlier this year. Other beneficiaries include Ghetto Film School, the Lollipop Theater Network and Film Aid.

S. Korean director investigated in abuse case

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors are investigating award-winning film director Kim Ki-duk after an actress accused him of hitting her and trying to force her into shooting off-script sexual scenes while making a 2013 movie. An official from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office on Thursday said the director will be questioned but it hasn't been determined when. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules. Ahn Byung-ho, an official from the Federation of Korea Movie Workers' Union, said the actress dropped out from the filming after Kim allegedly abused her and recently reported the case to the union after suffering from "psychological pain" for years. The movie, "Moebius," a dark and violent story about an estranged family, was released in 2013 after Kim finished filming with a different actress. Kim and his production company did not answer repeated calls for comment. The Dong-A Ilbo newspaper reported that Kim told a reporter he had slapped the actress while instructing her acting, but he denied trying to force her into filming off-script scenes. Kim won the top prize in the Venice Film Festival with his 2012 film "Pieta," a brutal mother-and-son tale of revenge and redemption.

Record label: Chester Bennington's funeral held days ago

NEW YORK (AP)—Chester Bennington's record label said the Linkin Park singer's private funeral was held over the weekend in Los Angeles.

Warner Bros. Records said the private service at South Coast Botanical Garden in Palos Verdes Estates took place Saturday. More than 500 family members and friends, including Linkin Park members and other musicians, attended. Mike Shinoda and Joe Hahn of Linkin Park, as well as Ryan Shuck—who comprised Dead By Sunrise with Bennington—gave eulogies.

Bennington

Bennington hanged himself from a bedroom door in his home near Los Angeles last month. His death was ruled a suicide.

Robert DeLeo and Dean DeLeo of Stone Temple Pilots, Kings of Chaos drummer Matt Sorum, Damon Fox and Jimmy Gnecco performed "Amazing Grace" at the funeral. Bennington joined Stone Temple Pilots in 2013 for two years.

Warner Bros. also said more than 300 fan-organized memorials were held around the world for Bennington.

Linkin Park's nonprofit Music for Relief, founded in 2005, has launched the One More Light Fund in honor of the late singer. The band also shared on its website the phone number for the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

CW's 'Legends' welcomes a Muslim character to its 'tapestry'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—"DC's Legends of Tomorrow" is adding a Muslim character for Season 3.

Zari, a Muslim-American woman from a quarter-century in the future, is played by newcomer Tala Ashe. But executive producer Marc Guggenheim says this isn't a political statement, nor is the character's religious status all that important.

Guggenheim told reporters on Wednesday that with Zari, as with all the CW show's time travelers, such things as religion, race and sexual orientation take a back seat to other personal traits. He said more germane to the storytelling are that she's a computer hacker and a resident of the future.

AP

Tala Ashe, a cast member in the CW series "DC's Legends of Tomorrow," poses for a portrait during the 2017 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at the Beverly Hilton on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Iranian-born Ashe, who grew up in Ohio, said she's proud to be part of this diverse troupe.

"The Legends are this tapestry that reflects the America of today," she said.

Owner of defunct 'Dirty Dancing' resort seeks cleanup help

LIBERTY, N.Y. (AP)—The owner of the now-defunct Catskills resort that inspired the film "Dirty Dancing" is seeking government help in cleaning up contamination left behind during the property's glory days.

The *Times Herald-Record* of Middletown reports a subsidiary of Westchester-based Cappelli Enterprises has asked the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to designate the former Grossinger's resort site a brownfield.

Such a designation would make the dilapidated property eligible for state aid in removing contamination from underground fuel tanks, dry-cleaning chemicals and other resort-related operations.

The owner wants to demolish the last remaining buildings and construct a 300-room hotel and housing complex.

Grossinger's was the most famous of the Catskills' old Borscht Belt resorts, operating for nearly 70 years before closing in 1986, a year before "Dirty Dancing" was released.

For sale: Farm with barn that inspired 'Charlotte's Web'

BROOKLIN, Maine (AP)—A 44-acre (18-hectare) saltwater farm in Maine where E.B. White penned "Charlotte's Web" is up for sale for $3.7 million.

The Brooklin home where White lived until his death in 1985 includes a barn that was the setting for the beloved children's book featuring a pig named Wilbur and a spider named harlotte.

The home dates to the late 1700s. White and his wife, Katharine, bought it in 1933.

Down East Properties listing agent Martha Dischinger says current owners Robert and Mary Gallant, of Anderson, South Carolina, are ready to sell after more than three decades of ownership.

She said Wednesday the property retains many historical touches and the owners maintained the gardens tended by Katharine White before her death.

E.B. White also wrote "Stuart Little," another children's book.

AP

This July, 13, 2017, photo provided by Yankee Magazine shows an oceanfront home where E.B. White lived when he penned "Charlotte's Web."

Woman feels steamrollered by in-laws in her own home

DEAR ABBY: My in-laws live in an apartment above our garage. It wasn't my idea. It was a compromise with my husband.

They now want to move Grandma into a trailer in our backyard! I am totally against it, and have voiced my opinion loudly.

My husband is stressed out and isn't capable of saying no to his parents. I have a feeling they are going to move forward with this plan regardless of my objections. I feel completely disrespected in my own home. Any advice?

DISRESPECTED IN OHIO

DEAR DISRESPECTED: You have a right to be respected in your home. If you don't want it turned into a "family compound," that's your prerogative. Put your foot down and tell your husband that his parents living there was all the compromise you are willing to make. If he can't summon the strength to tell his parents "NO!" then you will have to do it for him. If that doesn't put a stop to it, ask a respected friend or religious adviser to mediate.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I endured months of trying and multiple trips to a specialist before we finally conceived our daughter. My due date was Dec. 23, and I worried throughout my pregnancy that she would be born on Christmas Day. Low and behold, on Christmas Eve I went into labor and our precious baby girl joined us early Christmas morning.

Looking back now, I wouldn't change a thing. I know it's silly to worry because we have a happy, healthy baby girl and feel very blessed and lucky. But how can I respond to people —strangers included—when they say how "sad" it is that my daughter was born on Christmas and that she will get stiffed on presents, and maybe I should have timed my pregnancy better?

BLESSED IN NEW YORK

DEAR BLESSED: If anyone is so insensitive as to imply that you should have timed your pregnancy differently, perhaps you could put them in their place by responding that you feel lucky to have gotten pregnant at all. Then tell them you wouldn't change a thing because being born on Christmas Day puts her in good company.

And as to her being "stiffed" when it comes to receiving presents, consider doing what other parents have done: Choose a date in June and celebrate her HALF-birthday.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man. My friend "Brian" and I have known each other for 10 years. We dated for a while, but realized we are better off as friends. We have lived together for the past several years and are now considering getting married because my job has better benefits. My question is, is a marriage of convenience legal?

GOING TO THE CHAPEL?

DEAR GOING: Marriages of convenience have been happening since the institution of marriage was invented. That said, however, this is a question you should address to a lawyer to make sure that if you decide to marry Brian, you'll be going to the chapel instead of going to the hoosegow for insurance fraud.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

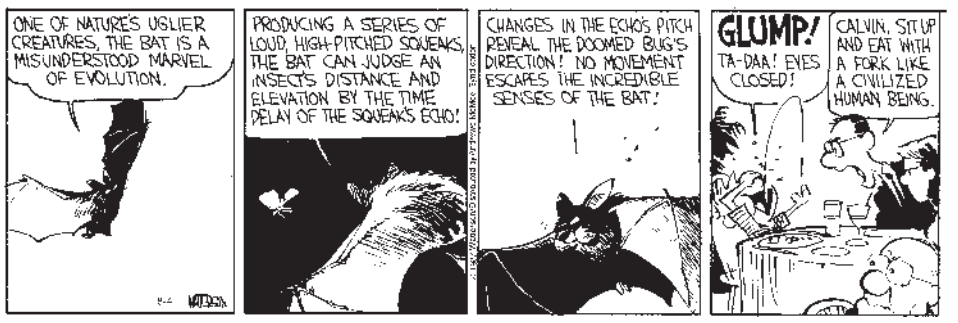
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson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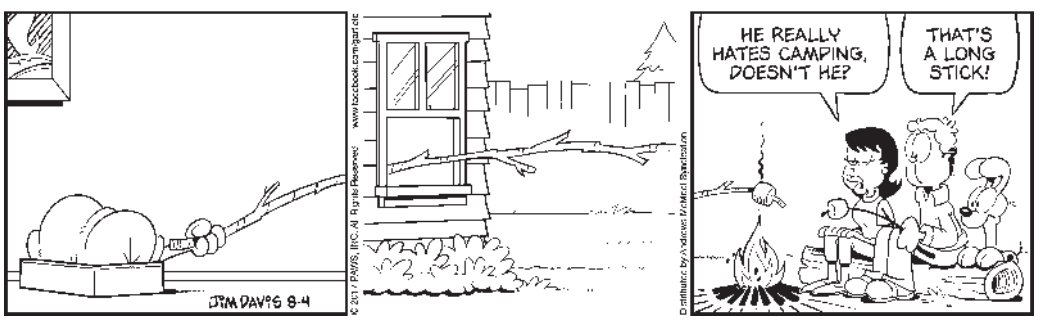
CHANGES IN THE ECHO'S PITCH REVEAL THE DOOMED BUG'S DIRECTION! NO MOVEMENT ESCAPES THE INCREDIBLE SENSES OF THE BAT!
GLUMP!
TA-DAA! EYES CLOSED!
CALVIN, SIT UP AND EAT WITH A FORK LIKE A CIVILIZED HUMAN BEING.

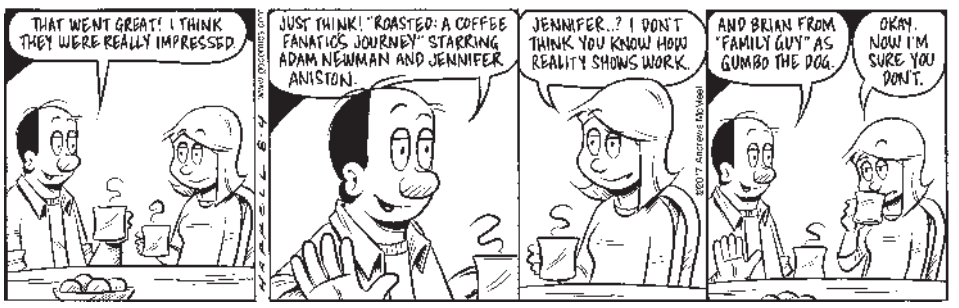
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THAT WENT GREAT! I THINK THEY WERE REALLY IMPRESSED.
JUST THINK! "ROASTED: A COFFEE FANATIC'S JOURNEY" STARRING ADAM NEWMAN AND JENNIFER ANISTON.
JENNIFER..? I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW HOW REALITY SHOWS WORK.
AND BRIAN FROM "FAMILY GUY" AS GUMBO THE DOG.
OKAY. NOW I'M SURE YOU DON'T.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Shower bars?
6 Clean air org.
9 Tummy muscles
12 Barbarian of film
13 "Mayday!"
14 Allow
15 Ancient Greek region
16 "Les Misérables" girl
18 Hebrew prophet
20 Memo
21 Busy insect
23 Napkin's place
24 '50s Ford
25 Lavish party
27 Prefix with surgeon
29 Noon or midnight
31 Dillydally
35 Eightsome
37 Thailand, once
38 Show again
41 Buddhist sect
43 Part of NIMBY
44 Weaponry
45 Flashing disco light
47 Chemistry lab tube
49 Aquarium favorite
52 Hockey surface
53 Fun and games
54 Be a snitch
55 June honoree
56 Boom times
57 Adversary

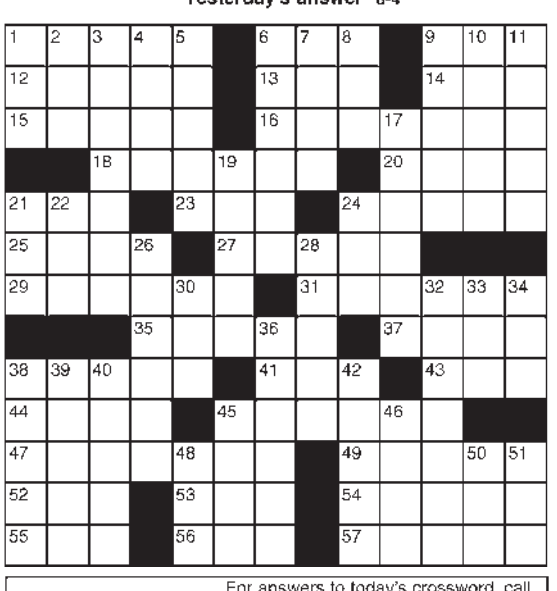
DOWN

1 Biol., e.g.
2 Tic-tac-toe win
3 Bening of "American Beauty"
4 Sandbox toy
5 Slow mover
6 Flee
7 Milne bruin
8 Ninny
9 Choir members
10 Davis of "Jezebel"
11 Bridge material
17 Funds
19 Singer Jackson
21 Astern
22 Up-to-date
24 Epoch
26 Plaza Hotel girl
28 Milk dispenser
30 TiVo precursor
32 Set in a kitchen
33 Asian language
34 911 responder
36 Montezuma's people
38 Speedy
39 Writer Jong
40 Pumped (up)
42 — Dame
45 Dance move
46 Noggin
48 Capote nickname
50 Computer acronym
51 Whatever

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	A	R	C		E	B	B		S	T	U	B
A	L	E	E		M	O	I		O	H	N	O
S	A	I	L		P	O	D		M	A	I	N
C	I	N	E	M	A		S	C	A	N	T	Y
			R	A	N			E	L	S		
G	A	M	Y		A	C	E	L	I	M	I	T
E	L	I			D	U	N			I	C	E
M	I	T	I	G	A	T	E		S	T	U	N
		C	R	Y			R	B	I			
G	O	H	O	M	E		V	E	L	V	E	T
E	D	E	N		V	I	A		K	I	L	O
R	I	L	E		E	A	T		E	T	A	T
M	E	L	D		N	N	E		N	C	N	E

Yesterday's answer 8-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kurt Busch, 39; Jeff Gordon, 46; Daniel Dae Kim, 49; Billy Bob Thornton, 62.

Happy Birthday: The past will help you connect fluidly to the present and the future. Use your experience and rely on the people you've been able to trust in the past to help you now. Network, listen to suggestions and explore your options. Take on extra responsibilities if they will help you learn what you need to know to reach your goals. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 28, 32, 37, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be secretive until you have looked at every angle and considered the best way to move forward. The less you say, the easier it will be to get things done without interference. A relationship will turn sour if you overreact. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Use wisdom and diplomacy and you will get your way. If you can explain what you are trying to accomplish, you will get an unusual deal from someone who has something unique to offer. Plan your actions strategically. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Traveling or getting together with friends will entice you, but before signing up for something, make sure you can afford the cost of being a participant. If you let someone else pay your way, find out what's expected in return. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Open up about the way you feel and what you want to accomplish personally. The time you spend with someone you love will help you build a stronger relationship with shared goals. Communication will be your ticket to happiness. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Practicality, creativity and a positive attitude will help you conquer any challenges you face. Rely on your common sense and ability to see situations clearly when making decisions that will influence your ability to be productive. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use your intelligence, imagination and ability to tune in to what others want and you will win favors. Romance is highlighted, and inviting someone to enjoy the simple things life has to offer will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Alter your look to represent what you have to offer and who you really are. Be creative and honest about what you want out of life. Personal growth will help you find the peace you are searching for. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Positive changes will result through heartfelt conversations that encourage evaluating where or how you live. Personal improvements that show off who you are and the way you want to live your life can be made. Let your imagination lead the way. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let what happened in the past cause problems for you now. Look for the truth and avoid someone who has a habit of leading you into temptation or trouble. Don't trust others to take care of your personal affairs. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Discuss your intentions with someone you care about. Sharing future prospects and laying out a plan that will lead to greater stability will bring you closer to your dreams, hopes and wishes. Love and romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Deal with the concerns of children, your loved ones or someone who needs your help. Your ability to shed light on a situation will lead to greater popularity. Let your heart and your wisdom lead the way. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can help others, but don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Offer suggestions and solutions, but refrain from paying for someone else's mistakes or misfortune. Invest in yourself and your future. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, dedicated and tenacious. You are inquisitive and structured.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4					8			1
	3		7	5		6	8	
	9							
1							2	
	2			7			6	
	6							8
							5	
	7	3		9	2		1	
9			8					4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	2	5	9	8	7	3	1
3	9	1	4	7	6	8	2	5
7	5	8	3	2	1	9	4	6
8	7	6	1	4	3	5	9	2
9	4	3	7	5	2	1	6	8
1	2	5	8	6	9	3	7	4
2	3	9	6	1	5	4	8	7
5	8	7	2	3	4	6	1	9
6	1	4	9	8	7	2	5	3

Difficulty level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CRUNCHY FOODS Solution: 6 letters

B	C	L	A	E	R	E	C	A	Z	Z	I	P	P	P
E	E	I	L	S	E	H	S	I	D	A	R	E	O	I
P	H	A	O	S	K	C	A	N	S	E	A	P	P	S
C	M	K	N	N	A	C	E	P	T	N	P	P	C	T
C	R	I	A	S	N	W	A	Z	U	Y	O	E	O	A
A	K	L	R	U	E	R	E	T	S	T	E	R	R	C
R	A	E	G	H	A	L	B	E	A	M	X	S	N	H
R	L	G	S	G	S	U	E	T	A	S	A	S	T	I
O	E	A	U	U	T	D	O	S	C	E	L	D	I	O
T	C	S	Ⓢ	T	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	U	S
U	H	H	E	Ⓣ	T	S	O	S	C	K	E	O	C	N
N	I	R	R	Y	Ⓤ	S	C	T	O	C	L	M	S	O
L	P	E	A	R	S	Ⓝ	A	A	N	I	P	L	I	I
A	S	P	S	I	R	C	T	O	U	P	P	A	B	N
W	H	E	M	P	I	N	R	U	T	N	A	C	H	O

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Almonds, Apple, Asparagus, Beans, Biscuit, Carrot, Cashew, Cereal, Chia, Chips, Coconut, Crisps, Flax, Granola, Hemp, Kale, Nacho, Nugget, Nuts, Oats, Okra, Onions, Peanut Butter, Pears, Pecan, Peppers, Pickles, Pistachios, Pizza, Popcorn, Poppy Seeds, Potato, Pretzels, Radishes, Sesame, Shrimp, Snacks, Sunflower, Sushi, Taco, Toast, Turnip, Walnut

Yesterday's Answer: Doctor

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Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on August 17, 2017.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Turning 40: Brady showing few signs of decline at milestone

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Professional athletes measure achievement in championships, with a constant eye slanted toward Father Time.

Next up for Tom Brady is challenging the conventional wisdom of how long a quarterback can play at a high level in the NFL. The leader of the New England Patriots turns 40 on Thursday, an age considered both a line of demarcation and decline for even the game's greatest names.

Brady already redefined what it meant to have success after age 35 even before he captured his fifth Super Bowl ring last season. With a stated desire to play until age 45—and possibly beyond it—Brady might one day find himself in rarer company.

According to Pro Football Reference, Brady is poised to become the 20th quarterback in league history to appear in a game at 40 or older. Whether it's a byproduct of the system he plays in, avoiding injury, or the training and nutrition regimen he swears by, unlike virtually all of his predecessors Brady isn't showing signs of slowing down.

"For Tom I think it's gonna come down more to motivation," said Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon, who retired at age 44 after 17 NFL seasons and six in the CFL. "Does he see himself having the same motivation, drive and desire five years from now that he has right now?"

Since 2000, seven quarterbacks have thrown a pass over the age of 40 in the NFL: Moon, Brett Favre, Vinny Testaverde, Matt Hasselbeck, Doug Flutie, Mark Brunell and Brad Johnson.

Of that group, only Moon (1997, age 41) and Favre (2009, age 40) have earned Pro Bowl selections after crossing into their fifth decade.

"I think injuries will have a lot to do with (how long Brady plays)," Moon said. "He's won five Super Bowls. How many more years can he have that deep down, burning desire to want to win?"

Favre posted the best season of any 40-year-old signal caller, completing 68 percent of his passes for 4,202 yards and 33 touchdowns in 2009 - his 19th season. Moon threw for 3,678 yards and 25 touchdowns in his 14th season in 1997.

Meanwhile, Brady is coming off his 12th Pro Bowl selection and is playing as if he's still in his prime . At 39, he threw for 3,554 yards and 28 touchdowns in a regular season shortened by his four-game "Deflategate" suspension. In addition, his 67.4 completion percentage last season was second only to the 68.9 percent he completed during his 2007 MVP season .

Brady also has been finding the end zone at a higher rate the older he gets.

Brady has averaged 31 touchdowns per season since turning 35 in 2012. He averaged 30 touchdowns from age 26 to 30. In 2007, he threw for a career-high and NFL-record 50 touchdowns .

By comparison, over his final five seasons, Peyton Manning averaged 34 touchdowns. Favre came in at 22.

Hasselbeck played at 40 in 2015. He said Brady benefits from playing in a quarterback-friendly rules era, but he does take a fair amount of hits.

He also sees a player defying his age in other ways.

"He looked better than I have ever seen at running or scrambling," Hasselbeck said. "It was like all the extra attention he's put in training and recovery showed up on the football field."

Unlike Favre, who loathed training camp, Brady still embraces the preseason.

Since 2004 when Brady was 27, he also has relied on a nutrition and workout program developed by friend and health guru Alex Guerrero. Under Guerrero's guidance, Brady follows a mostly plant-based diet during the season.

In 2013, Brady and Guerrero partnered in opening the TB12 Sports Therapy Center. The basis for Guerrero's program—in particular the plant-based diet component—has been criticized by some as junk science. But since Brady began working with him, other than a torn left ACL in 2008, he has not missed a regular-season game due to injury.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick declined comment on Brady's specific personal workout regimen, but he said the quarterback has long prioritized maximizing his performance.

Receivers Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola also have used Guerrero's methods. For the past three months, star tight end Rob Gronkowski has utilized the program as he works his way back from back surgery that ended his 2016 season after eight games.

Brady has even served as his personal chef.

"It's going good—yes," said Gronkowski, who turned 28 in May. "He cooks them for me, I eat them."

For all the respect Brady has garnered, beginning Thursday whatever he does going forward will come with all the reminders he is now in a special age group.

"People don't let you forget it," Hasselbeck said. "People act like you're getting ready to go in an old folks' home."

Patriots backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said not even Brady's Super Bowl rings can protect him from the jokes he'll hear.

"We have to, right? It wouldn't be right if we didn't," Garoppolo said. "We're there to bring him back down to earth every once in a while."

AP

At left, in a Jan. 22, 2017, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts after throwing a touchdown pass to Julian Edelman during the second half of the AFC championship NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, in Foxborough, Mass. At right, in a Feb. 5, 2017, file photo, New England Patriots' Tom Brady hoists the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game against the Atlanta Falcons, in Houston.

Ravens still pondering options on QB Colin Kaepernick

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Joe Flacco's health. The salary cap. And of course, potential negative fan reaction.

The Baltimore Raves are weighing all these factors—and then some—as they continue to wrestle with the decision whether to sign free agent quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

It's been a week since Ravens coach John Harbaugh floated the idea of adding Kaepernick, a veteran with Super Bowl experience and the baggage that comes from his decision last year to literally sit out the national anthem on game day.

The topic of Kaepernick came up on the first day of training camp because Flacco, the team's starter for the past nine seasons, arrived with a bad back. Flacco still hasn't taken a snap, though he insists he's on the mend.

Kaepernick remains an option, particularly since backup Ryan Mallett has not performed well in practice. One problem is the Ravens face in signing Kaepernick is they don't have much space under the salary cap and still have plenty of holes to fill, including on a porous offense line.

But biggest challenge for the Ravens is gauging the potential backlash that might be created by signing a player who gained widespread attention last year for his decision to sit—then eventually kneel—during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial injustice.

So, the Ravens will weigh all their options before deciding if Kaepernick is worth the money.

"It's all linked," Harbaugh said. "People want to draw big broad lines about, 'It's about this' or 'about that,' but it's never one thing. So, we'll just have to see where it goes and try to do the best thing for our football team, organization and everything."

Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti has interviewed current and former players on the topic, including retired linebacker Ray Lewis and tight end Benjamin Watson, now in his second year with the team.

"I was surprised mainly because I don't get a vote," Watson said Wednesday after practice. "This organization will make decisions for all the guys on the field right now. It's about: Can he help us win games?

"The biggest thing they have to decide is, is he a good fit for our football team? I would hope that any team, when it comes to Colin Kaepernick, would look at his skill and look at their needs and say, 'OK, I'm going to give him an opportunity because I have a need in that area and he can fill it.' Nothing else."

That's one of the most important facets among the litany of items the Ravens are considering, but Bisciotti contends that Kaepernick's protest last season—along with the quarterback's assertion that he will stand for the Star-Spangled Banner this year—cannot be ignored.

"Non-violent protesting is something that we've all embraced," Bisciotti said. "I don't like the way he did it. I liked it a lot more when he went from sitting to kneeling. I thought that if it's still a silent protest, the level of disrespect isn't as strong that way."

He wonders if the fans would be able to look past the protest and consider that the 29-year-old Kaepernick threw 16 touchdown passes against only four interceptions last year, and that his lifetime numbers in those categories are 72 TDs and just 30 INTs.

"I hope we do what is best for the team and balance that with what's best for our fans," Bisciotti said.

The subject has transcended football in the Baltimore area. All four Letters to the Editor in the Wednesday edition of The (Baltimore) Sun involved opinions of the potential signing of Kaepernick (three in favor of it; one against).

Flowers' 2-run HR lifts Braves to win, ending Dodgers streak

ATLANTA (AP)—Pinch-hitter Tyler Flowers connected for a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning as the Atlanta Braves stopped the Dodgers' nine-game winning streak with a 5-3 victory on Wednesday night.

Flowers' shot off Pedro Baez (3-2) helped Atlanta stop the Dodgers' major league-record streak of 53 straight wins when leading at any point of a game. The Dodgers were ahead 1-0 and 3-2.

The last time the Dodgers lost after leading in a game was May 15, when they were up 1-0 before losing 8-4 at San Francisco.

Rex Brothers (2-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for Atlanta, which had lost six in a row. Arodys Vizcaino, who has taken the closer's role from Jim Johnson, pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Cody Bellinger hit his 30th homer for the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Rays 3, Astros 0

In Houston, rookie Austin Pruitt and three relievers combined on a five-hitter and Tampa Bay handed Houston ace Dallas Keuchel his first loss of the season.

Logan Morrison hit his 28th home run. He also connected Tuesday night, snapping his season-long 12-game homerless streak.

The AL West-leading Astros, whose powerful offense has taken a hit with All-Stars Carlos Correa and George Springer on the disabled list, went 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position and were shut out for the second time in a week.

Pruitt (6-2), who grew up in suburban Houston and attended the University of Houston, allowed five hits in a career-high 6 1/3 innings. Alex Colome got his 32nd save.

Keuchel (9-1) allowed seven hits and three runs over five innings in his second start since missing almost two months with a pinched nerve in his neck. The lefty ace was better than he was in his previous start, when he lasted just three innings and gave up three runs at Detroit.

Diamondbacks 3, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Zack Godley pitched three-hit ball over six scoreless innings, Jake Lamb drove in all the runs and Arizona beat Chicago.

The loss was just the fourth in 18 games since the All-Star break for the NL Central-leading Cubs. The defending champions got shut down by Godley after pouring on a season-high 16 runs in Tuesday's romp.

Lamb hit a two-run double against Jake Arrieta (10-8) in the sixth and an RBI double off Justin Wilson in the eighth.

Godley (5-4) was every bit as stingy after tossing seven scoreless innings in a win at St. Louis last week. Fernando Rodney got his 23rd save in 28 chances.

Tigers 2, Yankees 0

In New York, Jordan Zimmermann pitched seven sharp innings, Justin Upton hit an early RBI double on the 10th anniversary of his major league debut and Detroit downed New York in a game that included 4 hours, 37 minutes of rain delays.

Zimmermann (7-8) allowed six hits, walked none and struck out six.

Scheduled to begin at 1:05 p.m., the game started 1 hour, 26 minutes late. Rain resumed in the seventh and a downpour that caused flash flood warnings halted play at the start of the eighth. Only a few hundred fans from the original crowd of 43,379 remained when play resumed after a 3:11 wait.

Shane Greene pitched a perfect ninth for his second save in two days.

Masahiro Tanaka (8-10) dropped to 0-6 in day games this year. Yankees reliever Dellin Betances struck out the side in the eighth on just nine pitches.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Yadier Molina hit two solo home runs, Luke Weaver pitched into the seventh inning and St. Louis held off Milwaukee.

Weaver (1-1) allowed five hits, including Eric Thames' 25th home run. Trevor Rosenthal got four outs for his seventh save.

Molina homered in the fourth and then connected off Brent Suter (2-2) in the sixth for his 12th of the season and fourth career multihomer game.

Orioles 6, Royals 0

In Baltimore, Jeremy Hellickson threw seven outstanding innings in his Orioles debut, Caleb Joseph homered and Baltimore beat Kansas City to complete a three-game sweep.

Playing in his second game with Baltimore, Tim Beckham doubled, tripled and drove in two runs.

The Orioles' five-game winning streak is their longest since early May, and they now stand just 2½ games behind Kansas City for the second AL wild-card slot.

The Royals had won 10 of 11 before coming up flat at Camden Yards, scoring only three runs in 27 innings. They showed their frustration in the ninth inning, when Mike Moustakas was tossed after complaining about a third-strike call and manager Ned Yost was ejected for joining the argument.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Danny Santana hits a two run home run over the right center field wall against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the second inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Atlanta. Nick Markakis scored on the play.

Hellickson (1-0) was obtained Saturday from Philadelphia. He gave up five hits.

Baltimore went up 3-0 in the second inning against Jason Vargas (13-5) when Beckham hit an RBI double and Joseph homered.

Mets 10, Rockies 5

In Denver, Curtis Granderson hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the sixth inning, and New York erased a five-run deficit to beat Colorado.

Jay Bruce hit his 29th homer and Asdrubal Cabrera had three hits for the Mets, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Yoenis Cespedes added an RBI double and played solid defense in left field. Amed Rosario tripled for his second hit in his second game in the majors.

Chasen Bradford (1-0) pitched two hitless innings. Tyler Chatwood (6-12) gave up eight runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Marlins 7, Nationals 0

In Miami, Vance Worley pitched seven innings and faced the minimum number of batters to earn his first victory since May 2016, helping Miami beat Washington.

Worley (1-2) allowed only two hits, and both baserunners were erased on double play grounders hit by Bryce Harper. Worley lowered his ERA from 6.42 to 5.31 while facing the highest-scoring team in the National League.

Dee Gordon tripled, singled twice, scored three times, drove in a run, stole two bases and made an acrobatic defensive play at second base. He extended his hitting streak to 13 games, matching his career high.

Teammates Christian Yelich and Derek Dietrich hit two-run homers. Right fielder Giancarlo Stanton leaped at the wall to rob Brian Goodwin of a home run for the final out to preserve a four-hit shutout.

A.J. Cole (1-1), recalled from Triple-A to make his second start of the year, allowed five runs in six innings.

Reds 5, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, rookie Jesse Winker homered for the second straight game, hitting a tiebreaking drive in the seventh inning off newly acquired Pittsburgh reliever Joaquin Benoit that led Cincinnati.

Adam Duvall homered and drove in three runs for the Reds. The Pirates have lost eight of 10 following a six-game winning streak.

Winker hit a solo shot over the right-field wall with one out in the seventh to give Cincinnati a 3-2 lead. Benoit (1-5) took over to begin the seventh after being traded from Philadelphia to the Pirates on Monday.

Michael Lorenzen (6-2) won in relief and Raisel Iglesias closed for his 18th save.

Twins 5, Padres 2

In San Diego, Ervin Santana threw a four-hitter for his major league-best fifth complete game and hit a two-run single to lead Minnesota over San Diego.

The Twins won for just the second time in nine games. They went 2-6 on a trip through Los Angeles, Oakland and San Diego.

Joe Mauer had a double and single to tie Tony Oliva for third on Minnesota's career hit list with 1,917.

Santana (12-7) retired his first 10 batters. He struck out nine and walked one in his 21st career complete game.

The Twins jumped on Luis Perdomo (5-6) for four runs on four hits and two walks in the second.

Rangers 5, Mariners 1

In Arlington, Texas, Joey Gallo hit another impressively long home run, Andrew Cashner won his third straight start and Texas beat Seattle to snap a four-game losing streak.

Delino DeShields and Elvis Andrus also homered for the Rangers, who wrapped up a 3-6 homestand during which Adrian Beltre joined the 3,000-hit club and ace pitcher Yu Darvish was traded away.

Mariners lefty Ariel Miranda (7-5) struck out five without a walk in 5 2/3 innings. But he allowed all three homers as Seattle's four-game winning streak ended.

Cashner (7-8) gave up one run over six innings to match a career best with his third straight win.

Blue Jays 5, White Sox 1

In Chicago, J.A. Happ struck out a season-high 10 in seven innings, matching his longest start of the season, as Toronto topped Chicago.

Happ (4-8) gave up a run and six hits while walking one to get his first win since July 4.

Justin Smoak extended his hitting streak to nine games and reached base three times for the Blue Jays, who won two of three in a matchup of last-place teams. Steve Pearce and Josh Donaldson added solo home runs.

Roberto Osuna entered with two on and nobody out in the ninth inning, and set down three straight batters to earn his 27th save.

Derek Holland (5-11) gave up two runs and five hits with four walks in six innings.

Angels 7, Phillies 0

In Anaheim, Mike Trout, C.J. Cron and Kaleb Cowart all homered in a seven-run third inning, JC Ramirez pitched eight strong innings and Los Angeles defeated Philadelphia.

Trout and Cron hit two-run homers and Cowart a solo shot in the third. It was the 20th home run of the season for Trout. Martin Maldonado hit two doubles in the inning.

Ramirez (10-9) gave up six hits and two walks, while striking out three in the longest outing of his career.

The victory was the fourth in five games as Los Angeles pulled three games behind the second AL wild-card spot.

Jake Thompson (1-1) went five innings for the Phillies but surrendered all seven runs — just two earned after Cesar Hernandez's fielding error — in the third.

The Phillies lost to the Angels for the 11th consecutive time.

Athletics 6, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Ryon Healy hit his 20th home run to end a monthlong power drought, rookie Daniel Gossett pitched seven impressive innings and Oakland beat San Francisco.

Jed Lowrie doubled twice and scored, Matt Chapman added two hits and an RBI and Chad Pinder singled twice and made a sparkling defensive play in left field to help the A's win on the opener of their five-game road trip.

Gossett (3-6) pitched three-hit ball, allowing one run. He struck out five and walked two.

Healy, starting at first base in place of All-Star Yonder Alonso because of the pitching matchup, had gone a career-high 24 games without homering before his two-out, two-run drive off Matt Moore (3-11).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

F. Marinos' Grace Choi, right, and Isamu United's Princess Alcantara ward off each other as they fight for the ball during the second half of their semis game in the girls U17 division of the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.

F. Marinos, 4Gives enter finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Guinevere Borja towed F. Marinos to the finals of the girls U17 division of the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament after drilling a hat trick in their 4-1 victory over Isamu United in their semis game yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Borja drilled all three goals in the first half to give F. Marinos cushion, while Julianne Hall registered the other goal for the team, which will collide with Marianas Health Armada in the division title game tomorrow at 6:30pm. Armada earlier notched the first finals berth after stunning the top-ranked Hakone FC, 2-1, in their semis showdown last Wednesday.

The second-ranked F. Marinos made sure Hakone FC's misfortunes will not happen to the team, as Borja took over right in the first half. With a comfortable lead, going into the final 20 minutes of the semis game, F. Marinos wisely used the clock, moving the ball around while taking several attempts when opportunities came. Hall then capitalized on one of those occasions as she knocked in a cross with still 11 minutes left in the game.

Isamu United, on the other hand, continued to struggle before Therese Millare found an opening and ended the team's drought down to the last four minutes and change of the match and with F. Marinos had the win in the bag.

F. Marinos is favored in tomorrow's winner-take-all finals as it defeated Marianas Health Armada twice in the preliminary games, 5-2, and 4-0.

Meanwhile, also set to play in a title game tomorrow is 4Gives, which moved to the finale following a 10-6 victory against NMI U16 in their semis match in the boys U16 division yesterday.

4Gives eased past NMI U16 in the second half to earn the right to face Saipan Elite in the division finals. The second half started with 4Gives clinging to a 4-3 lead before the persistent NMI U16 failed to counter-attack in the closing stage of the semis game and bowed out of contention. Andruw Omelau lifted 4Gives to the semis win after firing five goals, while Ronnel Ocanada chipped in three and David Mafnas had one. 4Gives got an own goal from NMI U16's defensive lapse. John Ezekiel also registered five goals in a losing effort for NMI U16, which drew one goal from Brandon Tenorio.

4Gives will duel Saipan Elite for the division crown at 5:30pm. The two finalists settled for a draw in their first meeting, 6-6, while Saipan Elite eked out a 4-3 triumph in their second collision.

Before the Saipan Elite-4Gives title tiff, SSS and Kanoa Football Club 2 will battle for the co-ed U12 championship at 4:30pm.

3 to make title defense in ROP 22

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Champions Jordan "The Machine" Manglona, Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, and Rob "The Deal" Wusstig will be making their respective title defense in next month's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage.

This will be Manglona and Alvarez's first time to defend their belts, while Wusstig will be making his second title defense after beating Stanley Iakopo by rear-naked choke submission in Trench Warz 20: Full Throttle in December last year.

Trench Tech's Manglona (4-1) will try to keep the flyweight title on home soil when he goes up against challenger Mcklane "The Game" Alfred (3-3, 1 knockout), who is fighting out of VIDA MMA Guam.

Manglona had a number of exhibition matches, mostly in kickboxing. This will be his first MMA fight since beating Guam Muay Thai/Underworld Extreme's Scott "Da Slaya" Eclavea (3-3) by split decision in last year's Pacific Xtreme Combat 52 in Guam.

Alvarez, meanwhile, will be climbing the octagon for the first time since losing to New Zealand's Mark Abelardo of Team Quest Thailand in PXC 50 by technical knockout in December 2015.

Alvarez's loss to Abelardo was his first in a PXC-organized event and in the process ending his five-match winning run. The Auckland-native (13-5) won eight matches by KO and his latest loss against Stephen Loman by unanimous decision in PXC 55.

Alvarez was sidelined for almost a year due to various injuries while training for two fights. He first injured his hand forcing him out of a scheduled PXC match and it took six months for it to heal.

He was again training after getting an invitation to fight in Deep Impact in Japan last year when he suffered a groin injury and pulled his hamstring.

Alvarez is now back to his usual form and will be using his match against Cruz as a gauge if he is now ready to show his skills in Deep Impact Japan later this year.

Wusstig, fighting out Team Tuck, will have his hands full when he clashes with undefeated challenger Mon Ju Lee for the main event.

Little is known about Lee, who made the jump from 145 lbs to 155 lbs just to fight Wusstig for the lightweight belt.

SAPONG

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with her father and Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin early this week. Improving her 13.35 seconds time in the 100m run when she won gold in the 2016 MAC.

She also won the 200m sprint gold with a MAC record of 27.87 seconds, while also anchoring the CNMI women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to bronze medals at Pohnpei State of the Federated States of Micronesia.

She also posted a time of 13.64 in the 100m sprint in this year's Oceania Area Championship in Fiji and 28.47 in the 200m run.

Sapong's times in the Pohnpei MAC was a huge improvement from the records she posted in the 2015 Oceania Athletics Association Area Championships in Cairns, Australia. She finished 13th in the 100m and 200m runs with times of 13.91 and 28.97 seconds each.

Sapong is using the Worlds as a preparation for this year's Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu and the 2018 MAC, which will be hosted by Saipan in June.

All eyes will be on 2016 Rio Olympics champion Elaine Thompson of Jamaica, Tori Bowie of the United States, and the Netherlands' Dafne Schippers with the three sprinters expected to breeze past their opponents to enter the finals.

Absent among the favorites is Jamaican and reigning Worlds sprint queen Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce as she skipped this year's edition due to pregnancy.

Guam's Regine Tugade (women's 200m), Dysard Dageago of Nauru (men's 100m), Gwynn Uehara of Palau (men's 100m), and FSM's James Fiti Scott (men's 100m) are the other athletes from Micronesia.

OFFICIALS

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a men's team (eight members) to the competition. The squad raced in the 500m and 1,500m events, while its member Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel did the 500m and 15-kilometer long distance single contests.

Guam is also the logical choice for two other group sports—basketball and baseball.

"Sending teams (men's and women's) to Guam would be less costly to us. It will also be easier to fund raise because we don't need such big amount," Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Elias Rangamar said.

Saipan Baseball League's Tony Rogolifoi is pinning his hopes, too on Guam not only because of the cheaper costs of travel, but also due to the potential host's strong baseball program.

"Obviously, I would prefer Guam because it would cost less to get there, especially for a big team like baseball, which usually has around 20 players, excluding coaches," said Rogolifoi. "Plus, baseball is very much alive in Guam, just like here."

The CNMI last fielded a baseball team in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia and won the gold medal after beating perennial rival Guam in the finals, 8-4.

Athletics, which has been consistently sending representatives to either the Mini Games or the Pacific Games, believes that what the bidding countries have to offer should be look into, not only the location.

"Voting members ought to look at the justifications of bidders over locations," Northern Marianas Athletics Association president Ramon Tebuteb said.

Under the normal bidding process, Pacific Games Association member countries have to cast their votes to select the host of events sanctioned by the Pacific Games Council. However, the council, in the press statement, said its executive board will closely review the proposals of the respective countries before recommending al alternative host by the end of this month or early September.

Regardless of which country gets the hosting rights, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White believes all are capable of handling the Pacific Games as they have done it before.

"NMSA is pleased that three countries have stepped forward and announced their willingness to host the 2019 Pacific Games on such short notice. Having participated in past Pacific Games in all three countries, we are confident that any one of them is capable of staging a great Games. We look forward to the report and recommendations of the Pacific Games Council Executive in a few weeks' time," White said.

Guam hosted the Pacific Games in 1975 and 1999; Tahiti had the event in 1971 and 1995, while the quadrennial competition was held in Samoa in 1983 and 2007.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	59	49	.546	—
New York	57	49	.538	1
Tampa Bay	56	53	.514	3½
Baltimore	53	54	.495	5½
Toronto	51	57	.472	8

Central Division

Cleveland	57	48	.543	—
Kansas City	55	51	.519	2½
Minnesota	51	54	.486	6
Detroit	49	57	.462	8½
Chicago	41	64	.390	16

West Division

Houston	69	38	.645	—
Seattle	55	54	.505	15
Los Angeles	53	55	.491	16½
Texas	51	56	.477	18
Oakland	48	60	.444	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	63	43	.594	—
Miami	51	55	.481	12
New York	49	56	.467	13½
Atlanta	49	57	.462	14
Philadelphia	39	66	.371	23½

Central Division

Chicago	57	49	.538	—
Milwaukee	56	53	.514	2½
St. Louis	53	54	.495	4½
Pittsburgh	51	56	.477	6½
Cincinnati	44	63	.411	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	75	32	.701	—
Arizona	61	46	.570	14
Colorado	61	47	.565	14½
San Diego	48	59	.449	27
San Francisco	41	68	.376	35

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

F. Marinos' Bernadette Horey gets ready to kick the ball during their girls U17 game against Isamu United in the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

F. Marinos' Guine Borja, right, controls the ball while an Isamu United defender keeps a close eye on her.

Marianas Health Armada's Keisha Deleon Guerrero, left, and Paulyn Joyce battle for possession.

Marianas Health Armada's Britany Wally, left, and Hakone FC's Krizel Tuazon chase the ball.

Isamu United's Therise Millare, right, prepares to kick the ball in front of the defense of a Hakone FC player.

Saipan Elite's Oliver Fajardo, right, tries to move closer on defense against a 4Gives player during their boys U16 division match.

A 4Gives player, center, loses possession against the defense of a Saipan Elite player.

A Kanoa FC I player, left, dribbles away from the defense of an HK SSS player during their co-ed U12 game.

Turning 40: Brady showing few signs of decline at milestone

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Flowers' 2-run HR lifts Braves to win, ending Dodgers streak

PAGE 29

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol, seen here racing in the 100m butterfly event in the 2017 SSC International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, made two age group marks in a tournament in Japan last month.

Ashley Dangol sets age group records

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Ashley Dangol marked two age group records when she competed in the Gifu Prefecture Championships held at the Nagara River Swimming Plaza in Japan late last month.

Dangol earned her first record in the girls 11 to 12 division after timing in at 1:13.19 in the 100m butterfly event. She eclipsed the age group mark (1:16.27) former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Miky Tammy posted on May 11, 2013. The 11-year-old's second record also came in the butterfly swim (200m) as she clocked in at 2:45:00, more than 12 seconds faster than Tammy's 2:57.42 registered on May 24, 2013.

With Dangol's feats in Japan, she now joins Tammy, Myana Welch, Grace Kimball, and Angel Marie Tan on the record-holders' list in the girls 11 to 12 division. Dangol also got the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Month award for her record-breaking swims in the July 29-30 tournament.

Sharing the top student honors with Dangol is fellow swimmer Kento Akimaru of Saipan Swim Club.

The incoming Marianas High School senior was recognized for his outstanding showing in two tournaments in Hawaii last month.

The 16-year-old Akimaru first participated in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational held at the Veterans' Memorial Aquatic Center in Waipahu and ruled the 15 to 16 age group after collecting 60 points and beating more than 20 swimmers in his division. In the same tournament, Akimaru shattered the 15 to 16 age group's 800m and 1,500m records set by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and Olympian Jonathan Sakovich.

The SSC swimmer also joined the third leg of the North Shore Swim Series and was the No. 1 overall finisher among nearly 400 swimmers who completed the 1.8-mile swim from Jaco's Chun to Waimea Bay in Oahu.

Officials weigh in on 2019 Pacific Games host

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Local sports officials gave their take on the three countries that expressed interest in taking over the hosting rights for the 2019 Pacific Games after the withdrawal of original choice Tonga.

Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation president Justine Andrew picks Guam and Tahiti, leaving Samoa off his list.

"Cost-wise, our federation would prefer that Guam hosts the Pacific Games. However, to learn more and be able to develop and strengthen our paddling experience, we would be glad if Tahiti hosts. Tahiti is paddling and therefore, the experience we would get from them would be extremely valuable to our paddling program here," Andrew said.

Having the Pacific Games in Guam would also mean that the CNMI could send more paddlers to the quadrennial event because of the cheaper cost of the trip and its proximity to the Commonwealth. In the 2015 Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, the CNMI only sent

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Sapong shoots for new PBT

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Zarinae Sapong is hoping to improve her personal best time when she competes in the women's 100-meter run on Saturday in the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London, United Kingdom.

Sapong will be running in one of the seven preliminary heats starting at 11:45am (8:45pm Saipan time) at the London Olympic Stadium at Marshgate Lane. The IAAF athletics championships will be from Aug. 4 to 13.

Sapong, the reigning Micronesian Athletics Championships sprint queen, left Saipan

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Guam's Regine Tugade, Nauru's Dysard Dageago, Palau's Gwynn Uehara, and the CNMI's Zarinae Sapong pose for a group photo after arriving at the London Olympic Stadium for this year's World Athletics Championships.